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THE
HISTORY
OF
MACCLESFIELD.

THE
HISTORY
OF
MACCLESFIELD.

BY JOHN CORRY,

*Author of a View of London, A New Picture of London, the History of Bristol,
the Lives of Cowper, Washington, and Nelson,
and several other Publications.*

TRUTH IS THE BASIS OF ALL EXCELLENCE.

JOHNSON.

London,

SOLD BY J. FERGUSON, UNION-STREET,

SOMERS TOWN

1817.

WAGGLESFIELD

*Printed at the Office of J. Leigh,
Market-place, Manchester:*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

XXXXXX

POPULATION

OF

MACCLESFIELD HUNDRED

In the Year 1811.

| HUNDREDS. | Parish, Township, or, Extra-Parochi- al Place. | Inhabited. | HOUSES. | | | OCCUPATIONS. | | | PERSONS. | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------|---|------------|--------------|--|--|--|----------|----------|----------------------|
| | | | By how many Fa- milies Oc- cupied. | Buildings. | Uninhabited. | Families chiefly employ- ed in Agricul- ture. | Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, or Handicraft. | All other Families not com- prized in the 2 pre- ceding classes. | Males. | Females. | Total of Persons. |
| MACCLESFIELD | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALDERLEY | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alderley Superior | Township | 70 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 66 | 8 | 1 | 204 | 220 | 424 |
| Alderley Inferior | Township | 93 | 95 | 2 | 3 | 57 | 23 | 15 | 277 | 264 | 541 |
| Warford Great | Township | 59 | 63 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 20 | 7 | 154 | 174 | 328 |
| (a) ASTBURY | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Somerford-Booths | Township | 48 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 134 | 133 | 267 |
| CHEADLE | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cheadle Bulkeley | Township | 458 | 481 | 6 | 35 | 36 | 393 | 52 | 1,225 | 1,284 | 2,509 |
| Cheadle-Moseley | Township | 255 | 260 | 1 | 6 | 62 | 179 | 19 | 578 | 718 | 1,296 |
| Handforth with Boxden | Township | 248 | 259 | 7 | 17 | 49 | 207 | 3 | 628 | 687 | 1,315 |
| GAWSWORTH | Parish | 118 | 121 | 0 | 0 | 115 | 5 | 1 | 377 | 380 | 757 |
| MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDEN-DALE | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Godley | Township | 72 | 80 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 71 | 0 | 216 | 235 | 451 |
| Hattersley | Township | 88 | 91 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 80 | 0 | 229 | 244 | 473 |
| Hollingworth | Township | 198 | 198 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 186 | 4 | 569 | 520 | 1,089 |
| Motley | Township | 50 | 51 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 46 | 0 | 152 | 159 | 311 |
| Mottram-in-Longden-Dale | Township | 255 | 272 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 267 | 3 | 710 | 736 | 1,446 |
| Newton Moor | Township | 245 | 270 | 1 | 12 | 13 | 253 | 4 | 732 | 713 | 1,445 |
| Stayley | Township | 221 | 229 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 216 | 2 | 592 | 512 | 1,104 |
| Tintwistle | Township | 212 | 214 | 0 | 4 | 25 | 189 | 0 | 662 | 684 | 1,346 |
| PRESTBURY | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adlington | Township | 171 | 176 | 0 | 3 | 46 | 129 | 1 | 472 | 468 | 940 |
| Birtles | Township | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 17 | 32 |
| Bollington | Township | 285 | 285 | 11 | 5 | 74 | 140 | 71 | 727 | 791 | 1,518 |
| Bosley | Township | 95 | 95 | 0 | 0 | 74 | 21 | 0 | 246 | 236 | 482 |
| Butley with Newton | Township | 123 | 123 | 0 | 2 | 67 | 53 | 3 | 308 | 327 | 635 |
| Capesthorne | Township | 10 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 38 | 32 | 70 |
| Chelford | Township | 27 | 27 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 4 | 6 | 97 | 91 | 188 |
| Eaton | Township | 37 | 37 | 0 | 3 | 31 | 6 | 0 | 117 | 111 | 228 |
| Fallibram | Township | 6 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 12 | 25 |
| Henbury with Pexall | Township | 55 | 66 | 0 | 1 | 55 | 10 | 1 | 189 | 196 | 385 |
| Hurdsfield | Township | 117 | 119 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 100 | 3 | 351 | 383 | 734 |
| Kettleshulme | Township | 78 | 80 | 0 | 3 | 73 | 7 | 0 | 188 | 216 | 404 |
| Lime-Haudley | Township | 43 | 44 | 0 | 3 | 38 | 6 | 0 | 115 | 132 | 247 |
| Macclesfield Forest | Township | 52 | 52 | 0 | 4 | 35 | 17 | 0 | 150 | 135 | 285 |
| Macclesfield | Township | 2,518 | 2,728 | 23 | 49 | 244 | 2,458 | 26 | 5,629 | 6,670 | 12,299 |
| Marton | Township | 51 | 53 | 0 | 1 | 44 | 9 | 0 | 162 | 158 | 320 |
| Mottram-Andrew | Township | 67 | 70 | 1 | 2 | 29 | 4 | 37 | 168 | 181 | 349 |
| Newton | Township | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 57 | 51 | 108 |
| Poynton | Township | 86 | 86 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 60 | 10 | 244 | 253 | 497 |
| Pott-Shrigley | Township | 67 | 67 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 20 | 39 | 168 | 162 | 330 |
| Prestbury | Township | 78 | 81 | 0 | 6 | 29 | 35 | 17 | 203 | 212 | 415 |
| Rainow | Township | 281 | 295 | 2 | 8 | 107 | 164 | 24 | 753 | 842 | 1,595 |
| Rode-North | Township | 41 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 6 | 0 | 122 | 118 | 240 |
| Siddington | Township | 79 | 79 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 15 | 6 | 237 | 211 | 448 |
| Sutton-Downs and Wicell | Township | 407 | 428 | 0 | 3 | 125 | 302 | 1 | 930 | 1,166 | 2,096 |
| Tytherington | Township | 59 | 59 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 39 | 1 | 172 | 183 | 355 |
| Upton | Township | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 28 | 39 | 67 |
| Wildboar-Clough | Township | 79 | 79 | 0 | 6 | 48 | 31 | 0 | 197 | 195 | 392 |
| Wincell | Township | 74 | 75 | 0 | 9 | 40 | 35 | 0 | 198 | 230 | 428 |
| Withington Lower | Township | 108 | 108 | 0 | 0 | 81 | 14 | 13 | 297 | 287 | 584 |
| Withington Old | Township | 21 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 3 | 0 | 81 | 97 | 178 |
| Woodford | Township | 65 | 66 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 36 | 0 | 179 | 197 | 376 |
| Worth | Township | 46 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 26 | 9 | 122 | 132 | 254 |
| (b) ROSTHERN | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Snelson | Township | 22 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 3 | 2 | 57 | 61 | 118 |
| STOCKPORT | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bramhall | Township | 192 | 192 | 0 | 3 | 34 | 152 | 6 | 555 | 579 | 1,134 |
| Bredbury | Township | 299 | 316 | 1 | 5 | 33 | 283 | 0 | 821 | 885 | 1,706 |
| Brinnington | Township | 234 | 247 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 330 | 3 | 771 | 934 | 1,705 |
| Disley | Township | 273 | 283 | 3 | 8 | 34 | 440 | 9 | 707 | 708 | 1,415 |
| Duckinfield | Township | 497 | 502 | 1 | 25 | 16 | 405 | 81 | 1,476 | 1,577 | 3,053 |
| Etchells | Township | 228 | 228 | 0 | 4 | 59 | 125 | 44 | 651 | 625 | 1,276 |
| Hyde | Township | 290 | 317 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 302 | 4 | 884 | 922 | 1,806 |
| Marple | Township | 394 | 435 | 7 | 23 | 33 | 396 | 6 | 1,062 | 1,192 | 2,254 |
| Norbury | Township | 115 | 123 | 0 | 2 | 40 | 62 | 21 | 233 | 218 | 451 |
| Northerden | Township | 123 | 133 | 1 | 4 | 64 | 60 | 9 | 275 | 333 | 608 |
| Offerton | Township | 77 | 86 | 0 | 5 | 20 | 65 | 1 | 235 | 258 | 493 |
| Romily | Township | 181 | 186 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 168 | 1 | 521 | 494 | 1,015 |
| Stockport | Township | 3,162 | 3,563 | 2 | 162 | 153 | 3,304 | 106 | 7,977 | 9,568 | 17,545 |
| Torkington | Township | 44 | 44 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 22 | 7 | 113 | 141 | 254 |
| Wemith | Township | 232 | 241 | 2 | 12 | 19 | 214 | 8 | 649 | 655 | 1,304 |
| TAXAL | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Taxal | Township | 34 | 39 | 0 | 3 | 34 | 5 | 0 | 86 | 96 | 182 |
| Whaley with Yeadsly | Township | 43 | 50 | 1 | 5 | 19 | 8 | 23 | 136 | 151 | 287 |
| WILMSLOW | Township | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bollen-Fee | Township | 327 | 335 | 1 | 17 | 64 | 265 | 6 | 851 | 904 | 1,755 |
| Chorley | Township | 75 | 80 | 0 | 3 | 37 | 43 | 0 | 206 | 220 | 426 |
| Fulshaw | Township | 44 | 47 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 31 | 1 | 100 | 132 | 232 |
| Pownall-Fee | Township | 198 | 217 | 3 | 3 | 84 | 126 | 7 | 626 | 671 | 1,297 |
| | | 15,038 | 16,143 | 107 | 528 | 2,897 | 12,515 | 731 | 39,404 | 43,518 | 82,922 |

NOTES. (a) The greatest part of Astbury Parish is in Northwich Hundred.
(b) The greatest part of Rosthern Parish is in Bucklow Hundred.

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C8554

THE
HISTORY
OF
MACCLESFIELD.

CHAPTER I.

Introductory observations—Etymology and Orthography of Macclesfield—antiquity of the town—Charter granted by Prince Edward in 1261, with notes—confirmation of the Charter by Edward III. Richard II. Edward IV. and Elizabeth—an account of the Duke of Buckingham's Castle in Macclesfield, and of the Death of that Nobleman—a Chantry and Free School founded by Sir John Percival in Macclesfield, in the year 1502—Copy of his Will, with remarks—Sir John Savage, Mayor of Macclesfield, and several of the Burgesses slain at Flodden Field—the tradition respecting the Battle of Bosworth refuted—Macclesfield Park.

WHEN the different tribes of the human race wandered through the habitable regions of the Globe in quest of a comfortable place of abode, our ancestors first settled in Britain. This remote part of our history is involved in obscurity ; and no records exist of the time, when adventurers from the continent, first crossed the sea to people this island. The ancient Britons were in a savage state when the ambition of Cæsar prompted

him to sail from the coast of Gaul, and invade Albion ; but the British warriors, though half-naked, and ill-armed, bravely met the steel-clad invader ; and struggled for their liberties in many a well-fought and sanguinary battle. When eventually subdued, they adopted the more elegant and comfortable dress of the Romans ; and whatever arts were then known on the Continent of Europe, were introduced by the conqueror. Invasion thus became the handmaid of civilization ; the rude Briton was instructed by the more intelligent Roman ; and our language was harmonized and enriched by the genius of Cæsar :

“ Expressive, energetic, and refin’d,

“ It sparkles with the gems he left behind.”

On the departure of the Romans from Britain, it was left defenceless ; for the youthful Britons were taken away to recruit those warlike legions in which their bravery was so often distinguished. The southern part of this island was then exposed to the ravages of a Northern Banditti, known by the name of Scots and Picts ; and when these depredators were driven within their own boundaries by the aid of the Saxons, the piratical Danes annoyed the shores of England, and made several descents on the coasts. Then Alfred arose, like a superior being, and by his wisdom, patriotism, and equity, promoted the general welfare of England, and under the fostering influence of his excellent laws, the state of society gradually improved, till that memorable but calamitous era in our history, termed the Conquest.

William, Duke of Normandy, in the year 1066, conceived the bold project of the conquest of England; and for that purpose collected many desperate military adventurers under his banners; landed on the shores of Sussex; defeated the gallant Saxon Barons and their followers, slew the heroic but unfortunate Harold at the battle of Hastings; subverted the liberties of the people of England, and sub-divided the hereditary domains of the English nobility among his officers. By the command of William, who now assumed regal power in England, a general survey was made of the Kingdom, and the particulars recorded in what was presumptuously termed Domseday-Book. To this record, our antiquaries make continual reference in all their disquisitions respecting past ages in this country. Indeed the Saxon annals seem entitled to little credit; but what satisfactory local information is derivable even from Domesday-Book? The survey was evidently made for the rapacious purpose of seizing the property of the discomfited Saxon chiefs. As for the common people, they were described by the degrading epithet of *villans* or *vassals*, and they were as completely the slaves of the Conqueror, and to whomsoever he bestowed them, as the present inhabitants of Russia are the vassals of their Autocrat.

In such a state of degradation, there could be no improvement; whatever had been devised by the wisdom of Alfred, and his successors, was no longer practicable by a conquered people, who were nightly reminded by the curfew, of the oppression of a foreign tyrant.

William the First, brutal and ignorant himself, did nothing to improve the condition of a nation compelled to receive his laws at the point of the sword. Even the pages of his Domesday Book prove the ignorance and want of literary taste in that barbarous age. In a few short sentences of Monkish Latin, rendered still more unintelligible by numerous contractions, the reader is informed of the extent of a manor, the number of its inhabitants, and its annual value. The value of the hamlet and forest of Macclesfield, at the time of the survey was certainly not great. Even the city of Lichfield, with its appurtenances, situated in a fertile part of Staffordshire, and then the property of the Bishop of Chester, was worth only fifteen pounds a year. Congleton, or as it was then called, Cogletone, was a small village, containing two *villans*, or slaves, and four *bordars*, or cottagers, and was valued at four shillings a year. The state and value of Macclesfield at that period is unknown; and Stockport, now so populous, is not even mentioned in Domesday-Book.*

When the Norman adventurer, at the head of his accomplices, came to deprive Harold of his Crown, and the people of England of their liberties, Macclesfield, like Stockport, was an obscure place. No feudal Chieftain here displayed the banners of an ancient House, or summoned his vassals by sound of trumpet, to murder those of some neighbouring Baron, under pretence of taking vengeance for an insult; but Mac-

* Sir Peter Leycester's Historial Antiquities, folio, page 162.

clesfield undoubtedly was, with the exception of a few small Cottages, as solitary as the wild forest that surrounded it. To such persons as prefer traditionary legends to plain matter of fact, the following History of Macclesfield will appear dull and uninteresting ; but to the lovers of truth, that truth which ought to be the basis of every historic superstructure, the author is convinced his work will prove agreeable. Unbiassed either by prejudice or partiality, he has collected all the facts respecting the town which he thought essential to his work ; cautiously avoiding mere traditionary assertion, as unworthy of the attention of the reader.

Macclesfield, now the third Town in Cheshire, for extent and population, is the head of the most extensive Hundred in the County, to which it gives name. The Etymology of the place, has been variously discussed by ingenious theorists, but they have not been able to ascertain its origin. The common tradition is, that the ground on which the town stands, belonged to a man named Max, who consequently called it Maxfield. But whatever may have been the derivation, the original name was Maxfield ; as is evident from the Orthography of several ancient manuscripts, particularly the grant for the foundation and endowment of a Chantry and Free Grammar-School, by Sir John Percival, Knt. in 1502. Maxfield had, however, been a place of some note in the thirteenth century. Messrs. Lysons, in their History of Cheshire, assert that it was made a Borough of one hundred and twenty Burgesses, by Randal, one of the Earls of Chester ; but these historians neither give the date of

the Charter, nor quote their authorities; hence their information is vague and unsatisfactory, as well as improbable.

In the year 1261, Prince Edward, son to Henry III. who as Earl of Chester and lord of the Palatinate, conferred many immunities on the people of the County over which he presided, granted a Charter to the inhabitants of Macclesfield. The following translation of this Charter from the original Latin, will doubtless gratify the present natives and inhabitants of Macclesfield. It is a very curious document, illustrative of the rude state of Society in England, in the thirteenth century; and the explanatory notes will elucidate many customs mentioned in it, which are now discontinued.

COPY OF THE CHARTER

granted by

EDWARD EARL OF CHESTER TO THE CORPORATION OF
MACCLESFIELD.

TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN.

" EDWARD the illustrious first-born of the King of England to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Counts, Barons, Justices, Sheriff's, Officers, Servants, Bailiffs, and all his faithful Subjects Health! Know ye, that we have granted and by this our present Charter have confirmed for ourselves and our heirs, to our Burgesses of Macclesfield, that our Town of Macclesfield may and shall be a free Borough; and that our Burgesses of the said Borough, may have a Merchant's

Guild (a) in the same Borough, with Liberties and free Customs belonging to the said Guild; and that they shall be free throughout all our County of Chester, as well by water, as by land, of Tolls (b), Passage Money (c), Pontage (d), Stallage (e), Lastage (f), and all other customs, excepting Salt at the Wythes. And that they may have Common of Pasture; and Housebote and Haybote (g) in our Forest, as they used to have; saving to ourselves our Mast, and Mast-money; and that they shall not be impleaded nor judged, in any Plea out of their Borough. And if any of them shall happen to be at our mercy for any forfeiture, he shall pay no more than *twelve pence* before judgment; and after judgment, a reasonable amercement, according to the nature of the fault, unless the forfeiture belong to our sword. The Burgesses aforesaid, shall grind their corn at our mill to the twentieth grain, as they were used to do; and they may nominate their Officers, by our assent or appointment, or by that of our Bailiffs. They may have and hold their Burgages

NOTES. (a) "Merchant's Guild," a brotherhood of Merchants, or Tradesmen, empowered to prohibit any person, who is not admitted of their society, from following any trade or traffic within the precincts granted to them, except at Fairs.

(b) "Toll" a General name for money paid for things bought publicly in a Fair or Market.

(c) "Passage Money" was demanded at some places for leave or protection to pass quietly and safely through certain liberties. Also at some places to pass by water.

(d) "Pontage." Money demanded for leave to pass over a bridge.

(e) "Stallage." Money paid for leave to erect a stall or booth.

(f) "Lastage" was a Toll paid for goods sold by the Last.

(g) "Housebote and Haybote." Wood for making Houses and Hedges.

and the lands belonging to them, freely and quietly for *twelve pence* a year; and may give, sell, or mortgage the same to whomsoever they will, excepting religious Houses, as they used to do; saving to ourselves the liberty of our Oven in the said Town. Wherefore we will and firmly command, for ourselves and our heirs, that our Burgesses aforesaid shall have all the aforesaid privileges, and enjoy all the Liberties appointed as is more fully set forth.

As Witness, Edward de Volbery Falconde Orre, our Excheator of Chester; Hugh de Clifford, John de Bretur, Keepers of our Wardrobe; Thomas de Bolton, and others. Given under our hands, at Guildford, the 29th. day of May, in the 45th. year of the reign of our Lord Father the King.* A. D. 1261.

EDWARD. "

By this Charter, Macclesfield was raised from its comparatively obscure state as a Hamlet, to the dignity of a Corporate Town; and Prince Edward continued to favour the inhabitants with many proofs of his munificence during his residence in the County Palatine of Chester. The civil wars, in which his father, Henry the Third, was for some years engaged with the Barons, required the presence of Prince Edward in the field, and as he was of an adventurous and daring spirit he distinguished himself by many heroic deeds. But the genius of the celebrated Simon de Monfort, Earl of Leicester, who was at the head of the confede-

* Henry III. "

racy against the King, prevailed over the impetuous inexperience of the Earl of Chester, who was defeated and taken prisoner by the Barons at the battle of Hereford. An accommodation soon afterwards took place between the King and the Barons, and Prince Edward was liberated.

After his accession to the throne in the year 1272, by the title of Edward I. this sovereign was not unmindful of his Earldom of Chester. He founded the Abbey of Vale Royal in 1273, and on the 2nd. of August 1277, he laid the first stone on the scite of the High Altar in the presence of his Queen Eleanor and an immense concourse of the nobility. In 1278, King Edward and his Queen Eleanor, founded the parochial Chapel of Macclesfield, dedicated to St. Michael, and now commonly called the old Church.

The privileges granted by King Edward to the Burgesses of Macclesfield were confirmed to their Heirs and Successors for ever, by Edward III. at York, on the 26th. day of February, 1334; by Richard II. at Westminster, on the 14th. day of November, 1390; and by Edward IV. the 30th. day of January, 1465. These Charters were recited and confirmed by Queen Elizabeth at Westminster, the 13th. of May, in the sixth year of her reign, A. D; 1564, and by another Charter of Elizabeth, the 1st. day of September, in the thirty-seventh year of her reign, A. D. 1595. with many additional privileges.

About the middle of the fifteenth century the celebrated Humphrey Duke of Buckingham resided in his Castle at Macclesfield. His mansion was situated on

the summit of an eminence to the South of St. Michael's Church; and the remains of part of the wall that surrounded it are yet to be seen in a narrow street, called Back Wallgate. From various records, it does not appear to have been a fortress, but what is usually termed by antiquaries, a *castellated mansion*. Smith in his description of Cheshire in 1585, describes it as, "a huge place all of stone, *in manner of a castle*, which belonged to the Duke of Buckingham, but now gone to decay." Swanscow Park, near Macclesfield, is said to have belonged to the Duke of Buckingham, and tradition extols his hospitality, and the magnificence of his establishment in this Town. This brave and faithful Nobleman was slain at the battle of Northampton on the 10th. of July, 1459, fighting for King Henry VI. against the adherents of the House of York. The competition for the Crown, which began between the Houses of York and Lancaster in the reign of Henry VI. was continued in the reign of his Successor Edward IV. and the flower of the English nobility perished in the struggle. Yet trade and manufactures gradually increased, and Macclesfield participated the general prosperity.

At this period, the town of Macclesfield was not remarkable for its manufactures, but of the rapid increase of the population, and the general want of instruction among the inhabitants, we have a document of undoubted authenticity.

In the year 1502, Sir John Percival, Knt. Lord Mayor of London, and a native of Macclesfield, founded and endowed a Chantry and Free Grammar School

in this town, and ordered in his bequest that lands to the yearly value of ten pounds, should be purchased for that purpose. On the Dissolution of Monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. the Chantry was suppressed, but the Free-School was re-established by King Edward VI. in the year 1552, and endowed with sixteen acres of land near Chester, and several houses in and near that city.

Sir John Percival, is entitled to the veneration of the people of Macclesfield for his patriotic and munificent legacy ; the instrument in which it was conveyed is a curious specimen of the style and orthography of the age in which it was written ; and the good Lord Mayor of London, piously and learnedly descants on the necessity of instruction, in language scarcely intelligible. It will, however, afford some gratification to the Antiquarian, and the fastidious Critic may overlook its defects.

COPY OF THE WILL

OF

SIR JOHN PERCYVALE, KNIGHT, THE FIRST FOUNDER OF
MACCLESFIELD FREE GRAMMAR-SCHOOL.

XXVth. Jaury, M. CCCCII.

To all People to whom this present wrytyng indented shall come, John Percyvale, Knyght, and late Maire of the citie of London, sendith gretynge, in our Lord God evrelastyng. Whereafore this tyme, I consideryng that in the countrie of Chestre, and spe-

cially about the towne of Maxfild, fast by the which towne I was borne, God of his abundant Grace hath sent and daily sendeth to the Inhabitants there copious plentie of children; to whose lernyng, bryngyng forth in conyng and virtue, right few teachers and scolemaisters been in that contre, whereby many children for lak of such techyng and draught, in conyng fall to idleness., and consequently live dissolutely all their daies, which with the gracious mocion of the most Revrende Fader in God, and my singular good Lord, Thomas Archbishop of Yorke, hath moche stered me of such little good as God of his Grace hath me sent, to purvay a preest to sing and pray for me and my friends at Maxfild aforesaid, and there to kepe a free Gramar Scole for evermore. Of and in which matres I have dyvers and many tymes had comunycacion with my said singular good Lord, and to the accomplishment of that my purpose, my said good Lord, as I understand, hath purveyed certain lands, rents, and heredytaments, with th' appurtenues in the countie aforsaid, and of the same londs & tents. my said Lord being seased, hath made a state vnto certyn persones to the entent asfor reherced, which londs and tents. I am enformed been of the yerely value of X^mrc. for the which I have granted to pay to my Lord after the rate of Xvj. yeres purchece, whereof my my said Lord hath in his hands ^{xx} xli. vy. yot. sterling, that is to say, xl li. vij s. y ot. in the rest of an obligation of a more sume, wheryn John Savage, Knyght, stode bounde to me and L. li. in the rest of another obligation of a more sume, wheryn my said

good Lord and other stonde bounde to me, so that of that purchase of X^mrc. by yere, there is no more behynde to pay but xvj li vjs. yot. And moreov. I have intreated & besought my said singular good Lord to ordeyne and purvay, at my costs and charges, after the rate of xvj years purchase, V^mrc. more above the said X^mrc. to the encrease and augmentation of the salary of the forsaid preest and scolemaistre, whereby the same preest and scolemaistre may alway be a man graduate to the better relieving with spirituall comforte of all the contre there as by plechyng and techyng, and good example givying. The which londs and tents of the yerely value of V^mrc, to the said londs and tents, of the yerely value of X^mrc. my said singular good Lord, of his speciall goodness, hath granted me to purvey and ordeyne in the bestwise he can, and so to make the same londs and tents to amounte to the sume of the yerely value of Xli. Wherefore and whereupon I, the said John Percyvale, by this present writyng endented, make and declare my will as to the disposicion of all the said londs and tents, as well of the said X^mrc by yere, ready purveyed, as of the said other yerely mrc. to be purveyed, that is to wete of the said hole Xli. by yere, in the manner and form hereafter ensuyng, that is to say, first and foremost I will, that myn executors, with the advice of good lerned counsell, shall see that the title, right, and interest of all the said londs and tents, of the yerely value of Xli as is aforesaid, shall stonde clere, good, and sufficient to the performance of my purpose and entent aforesaid, to be executed after the maner

and fourme hereunder declared, the which title, right, and enterest so found good and sufficient, I woll that myn executors without delay shall make trew payment and contentation unto my said singular good Lord, as well of the said Xvj. li vjs. yot. being behynde unpaied of the purchase of the said yerely Xmrc. as for the hole purchase of the said yerely Vmrc yf my said good Lord do purvay therefore and purchase it; and that done, I woll that than all the same londs and tents by good and ordynate conveyance shall be put in feoffement to these persones folowyng, that is to say, to Edward Tytton, of Goesworth; Rauf Dampport, of Dampport; William Dampport, of Bromall; Thomas Hyde, of Norbury; John Sutton, of Sutton; the elder of the Rygge, and Roger his eldest son: John Bridges, of Edgley; Reignold Oldfield, and John his eldest son; John Worth, of Tetrynton, the elder; and John his eldest son; Thomas Sherygley, of Berystowe, the elder, and Thomas his eldest son; Roger Rowe and Richard his eldest son. To hold to them and to theyr heires for ever, to the intent that they and their heires of thissues and pfects of all the said lands and tents shall fynde and susteyne a virtues preest conynge in gramer and graduate. The same preest to sing and say his devyne svice daily as his disposicione shall be, in the parishe chirch of Maxfield aforesaid, praiying for my soule and the soule of Dame Thomasyne my wife, the soules also of our faders, moders, benefactors, and the soule of Richard Sutton, gentilman, for the good and holsome counsell which he hath given me to the pfourmance of this my will, and for all Xan soules.

And I woll that the same preest shall alway keep and contynew in the said town of Maxfild a free gramer Scole, techyng their gentilmen's sonnes, and other good menn's children of the towne and countre thereabouts, whereby they shall now grow in conyng and virtue to the laude and praise of Almighty God, and to their own comfort and p̄fite. And I woll that the said preest and his scolers with hym, every evenyng on fesyall or working daies, shall sing afore some image of my lady in the said church, an antempue of our blessed lady, and after antempue doon, to say the psalme of De P fundis, with the collects for my soul and other soules aforsaid. And I wolle that the said preest daily in his mass afore his first lavatory at the south ende of the Awter shall turn him about to the people and there say the psalme of De P fundis without the collect for my soule and other soules aforesaid. And that the same preest with his scholers, every yere about such time of the yere as it shall hap. me to deceas shall hold and keep in the chirch of Maxfield aforesaid, myn obyte or anniversary by note, that is to say, placebe and dirige ow. night, and masse of requyem on the morrow folowyng, praiying for my soul and other souls afore reherced. Also I woll, that the said preest shall, well, ovsee the said scholers, and cause theym every holyday to be at the said chirch thereat, the time of Mateyns masse and Even Song there helping to syng, and to say their services well and virtuously, without jaulklyng or talkyng, or other idell occupation. And I woll that the said preest shall alway be chosen elect, and admitted to the said svice by my ffeoffes of the said

londs and tents first-named in the deed of feoffment of the same then levying, and he so chosen and admitted to contynew in the same svice as long as he shall be of good and virtuous disposicion, and duly keep his svice and gramer-scole as is aforesaid. And yf at any time hereafter it shall hapen, the said preest occupying for the time the svice aforesaid, to be of unsad and unvertuous disposicion and not duellie to keep his said svice and the said gramer scole according to my will aforesaid ; I will, that than they my first-med ffeoffes of the said londs and tents then lyvyng shall give warning, or cause warning to be given to the preest to avoid the said service at the end of a quarter next, after such warning had, within the which time, I will, that the said my feoffe first named, then lyvyng, shall provide for another preest to come and entre the said price at the said quarter's end, he to syng and say his mass and devyne svice, and to kepe and contynew the said gramer-scole and all other things, to doo as I have aforewilled and assigned. And then, that preest so of new chosen and admitted, to conynew the same svice as long as he shall be sadde and vertuous, and duly kepe the articles of my will as aforesaid. And ells to be warned and ammoved from the said svice, and another there-to be admytted in the manner and fourme afore rehersed without delay, and so as oft as such case shall hapin in tyme to come. And also like elleccion to be made and had of a preest to the said svice as often as the sd. svice by deth, promocion, livyng, or otherwise shall hap to be void in tyme to come ; so that the said preest's service and gramar-scole shall alwaie be

kept and continewed according to the trew meanyng of my will above declared. Provided always that my very will is for the trust and confidens which I have in the sadde disposicion, and conyng of my kynnesman, Maister William Bridgys; that the same Maister William shall have, hold, keep, and occupye the said svice and gramer schole abovesaid, as long as hit shall please hym, without any expulsion or ammovyng from the same. And I woll that whensoever it shall hap hereafter the said ffeoffes by deth to mynyshe and come to the nm. bre of iiij only, that than those iiij. shall make a state of the said londs and tents. and other prmysses unto the heires apparent of those iiij feoffes, that so shall happen to outlive, and to the heirs of all those feoffes that than shall happen to be deceased, if they be mete or convenyent, therefore and to other discretiones in a convenyent nombre. To hold to them all, and to their heires, in fee to th' use of the trewe pfourmance of this my will above declared, And in this mannerwise, the sd. ffeoffment to be renued at ev'ry tyme when the ffeoffes shall hereafter mynyshe and come to the nu bre of iiij only. To the intent that my said will shall always mowe truely be kept, executed, and pformed in the man. and fourme afore reherced. And I will, that the said first named ffeoffes lyvyng, and for the tyme being, shall alway from tyme to tyme, and as they shall think best, make and depute a sadde and discrete psone to ovsee the said londs and tents, and the necessary reparations of the same, and to be rent-gatherer of the issues and profits of the same, and to pay the preest his salary quarterly, and he to be ac-

countable in that behalf unto the iij first named ffeoffees for the time being, as often as he shall be thereto called, and he to have for his labour and besynesse about the same, yearly, vj.s. vij d. And I will, that all the residue and surplusage of the said yearly Xli. above the repacions of the said lands and tents. and other ordinary and casual charges of the same, and over the said yerely vjs. viij d for the wags of, the rent gatherer shall always go and remain to the said preest for his salary and wage. And I will, if it so happen, that by the advice of such learned counsel as my Executors shall call to see the surety of the title of the said lands and tents purchased, and to be purchased, it be thought that the same title be not good and sufficient to maintain and continue my intent and will afore-reherced, that then my Executors, with the good favor of my said Lord, and with the money remaining to that intent in his hands as is aforesaid, and also without money of mine necessary to the pfourmance of my said will, within two years next after my decease, shall purchase and buy other lands and tents to like value within the said town of Maxfield, and nyghe thereabouts, whereof the title by the said learned counsel shall be thought good and sufficient, and them cause to be put in ffeoffement, as is aforesaid, to the true performance of this my will in that behalf; in which case and in all other things, this mine intent and purpose concerning, I put singular trust and confidence in my said good Lord beseeching him, all things therein to do as shall be thought necessary and needful by the said learned counsel and that it may please him of his charitable

disposicion to be good maytenor and consevator of this my power, will, and intent afore rehersed. And I will, furthermore, that if such londs and tents to the yearly value of Xli. being of clear title as is aforesaid, in or nigh the said town of Maxfield, to the pfourmance of this my will, neither by my said Lord, nor by mine Executors can be purchased and bought within the said two years next, after my deccase; that then, all the money appointed as is abovesaid for the said purchase, as well that which remaineth in my said Lord's hands, as the remeuut shall be disposed by my executors named in my testament of my movable goods in deeds of alms, and works of charity, as they seem best to the pleasure of God for the help and comfort of my soul. In wisse of which premises to either p.te of this my will indented, I have put my seale, written the XXV. day of January, the year of our Lord God M. ffyve hundred and two, and the xvij yere of the reigne of King Henry the vijth. beyng witnesses at the sealyng of the same John Pecche, knyght; John Hert, gentilman; Robert Fenrother, goldsmyth; Robert Gowsell, m.chant haberdasher; Henry Wodecok, Robert Cressy, notarys; George Harward, taillor, and others.

(SEAL)

[ANNEXED]

Made y^t. the Cownter parte of this Will, and of the deeds and the evidences belongyng to the said lands, th' other pte. remaynyth in the abbey of West Chester, and the other pte., with the evydence, remaineth in the Taylour's Hall, in the City of London.

This memorial of the piety and beneficence of Sir John Percival, affords a proof of the low state of learning, and the prevalence of superstition in England at the commencement of the sixteenth century. According to his bequest, an edifice was erected near St. Michael's Church, which served the twofold purpose of devotional exercises, and grammatical instruction; and this establishment probably gave rise to the tradition, that Thomas Savage, Archbishop of York, who was a native of Macclesfield, founded a college of secular priests or canons in this town. The Archbishop certainly built a chapel connected with St. Michael's Church, of which it is the south aisle. He died in the year 1508, and his heart was buried in this chapel, which was for several ages afterwards the burial-place of the Savages, but now belongs to Marquis Cholmondeley.

There are but few records of the progressive increase of the town of Macclesfield and its population at this early period of its history; but that it was distinguished for the loyalty and public spirit of the inhabitants is evident from the fact recorded in the Corporation books, that Sir John Savage, the Mayor, and several of the Burgesses were slain at *Flodden Field*, in the year From this circumstance the tradition doubtless originated, that the men of Macclesfield distinguished themselves with so much ardour at the Battle of *Bosworth*, in the cause of the Earl of Richmond, that the major part of them fell; insomuch that, the survivors were obliged to petition the victorious Prince, to grant them the continuance of their

charter, though they could not muster a sufficient number of Aldermen to constitute a corporation. Dr. Aiken, in his Description of the Country round Manchester, asserts, that a copy of the petition to King Henry VII, is in the town-chest. This assertion is contradicted by Messrs. Lysons, in their History of Cheshire, who insist that no such copy of a petition is now in existence, and no charter of the tenor alluded to ever was granted to the Burgesses. It might here be said in the words of the satirist,

“ Who shall decide when Doctors disagree?”

The tradition is evidently the fabrication of some vain advocate for the antiquity and importance of Macclesfield, and the *loyalty* of its inhabitants; yet their loyalty on this occasion had the fact been verified, would have been extremely questionable; since according to the statement, they took up arms against Richard III. who then held the sceptre of England. Farther to disprove this vague, and indeed unimportant tradition, it is remarkable, that Henry VII. after his assumption of Royal Authority, conferred no charter or immunity on the Corporation of Macclesfield. This neglect of adherents who had risked their lives in his cause would have been both ungrateful and impolitic in Henry, who was a prudent and patriotic Prince. But as the tradition represented the warriors of Macclesfield as brave and adventurous, it gratified the egotism of the people; for as military fame is still considered the highest honour among mankind, even the industrious manufacturers of this flourishing town, are gratified

with the idea of the heroism of their ancestors. When will the false glory attached to homicide in the field of battle, be considered in its true light, as the honorary distinction conferred on splendid murder? When will rational beings, and nominal Christians too, cease to boast of their prowess in the infliction of pain, and the destruction of God's noblest work in the visible creation? When do we hear the great or the brave extolled for saving the lives of others, or mitigating human misery? When was a man ennobled by a Ruler for an act of philanthropy, and how many *Grand Crosses* have there been conferred on modern *worthies* for their pre-eminence in the art of killing men?

Macclesfield-Park, which belonged the Savages in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, extended nearly a mile to the south and south-west of the town. On a spot still called the Castle-field, near the highway between Macclesfield and Congleton, some vestiges of the ancient castellated mansion of the Savages may yet be traced. It was the residence of that family for ages, and remarkable for being the birth-place of the celebrated Archbishop Savage. The demesne afterwards became the property of Lord Cholmondley, who sold it in small lots for building upon; and the principal part of it is now covered with new streets and well built houses. A farther account will be given of the antiquities of the town in the description of St. Michael's Church, and the monuments in the two chapels connected with that edifice.

When Prince Edward was taken prisoner by the rebellious Barons at Hereford, he surrendered up his Earldom of Chester to Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, as his ransom.* How long Simon retained possession of the county of Chester is uncertain; he probably resigned it up to the Crown on the accommodation of the dispute between King Henry III. and the Barons; for in the Parliament summoned by Edward I. in the year 1331 his fourth son Edward of Carnarvon, being his eldest son then living, was mentioned by the titles of “Edward Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester our most dear Son.”

* Camden's Britannia.

CHAPTER II.

Charter granted to the Burgesses of Macclesfield by Queen Elizabeth—Charter granted by Charles II.

BY the Charter of Elizabeth, granted to the Corporation of Macclesfield on the 1st of September, in the 37th year of her reign, A. D. 1598 : many valuable immunities were conferred on the Burgesses by her Majesty. The glorious reign of Elizabeth was equally memorable for the internal prosperity of the nation ; the achievements of British warriors by sea and land in defence of the State, and for the extension and aggrandizement of its power ; and the firm re-establishment of the Protestant Religion upon the imperishable basis of Evangelical Truth. Prudent herself, and aided by a wise Council, this Queen was worthy to reign over a great and free people ; and that love of literature which she had cherished during her retirement when her sister Mary reigned, enabled her to dictate charters and edicts with a precision and good sense, unattained by her predecessors. Of this fact, the following Charter which she granted to the inhabitants of Macclesfield will afford a complete illustration :

“ The town of Macclesfield may be, and remain for ever hereafter, a free Borough of itself ; and the Burgesses may and shall be a Body Corporate and Politic, by the name of Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Macclesfield : - and by the same name

have a perpetual succession. The Burgesses shall be capable in law to have lands, tenements, &c. to themselves, and their successors, in fee perpetually; and also to give the lands and tenements by the name aforesaid. They may have a common Seal, to break it at their pleasure. One Mayor and two Aldermen in number only of the Burgesses. The Mayor and Aldermen to continue in their offices until the feast of St. Michael the Arch-Angel; and from the said feast until other Burgesses shall be appointed and sworn. Those Officers, and twenty-four men of the better and more honest Burgesses and Counsellors of the said Borough, to be continued in the said office as long as they behave themselves well. A head steward of the Borough aforesaid, with power of appointing one or more learned in the law, to be Deputies of the said Steward. The Head Steward to be continued during life. His Deputy to be chosen by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses for one year. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses have authority to make such bye laws as may be requisite for the good government of the Borough.

The Mayor and Aldermen to be chosen yearly, on the first Friday after the feast of St. Michael, and to be sworn on the Friday following. The Mayor, Aldermen and Capital Burgesses to be chosen by themselves. An officer to be called the Serjeant at Mace for attendance upon the Mayor, and for executing processes, to be chosen yearly by the Mayor on the Friday after the feast of St. Michael. The Serjeant at Mace in the Borough aforesaid, shall carry a Mace of Gold, or Silver, engraved and adorned with the arms of the

Kingdom of England, before the Mayor, every where in the Borough aforesaid, and the liberties and precincts thereof. The Corporation may yearly keep another feast day, or fair, on the last day of June, and the following day ; with a Court of *Pie Poudre*, or Dusty Feet. The Mayor, Head Steward, and one Alderman, shall do justice."

This Charter was dated Sept. 1, in the 37th year of the Queen's Reign, A. D. 1598.

In 1685, the last year of the reign of King Charles II. his Majesty granted a very comprehensive Charter to the Borough of Macclesfield. As this is their last Charter, and that under which the Officers of the Corporation act, and as it contains the names of the Mayor, Aldermen, Capital Burgesses, Recorder, and Coroner, appointed by his Majesty, it must be peculiarly interesting to their descendants. This Charter is genuine, being carefully translated from the original Latin, and corrected. It will doubtless gratify the curiosity of the inhabitants of Macclesfield in general, as an original and valuable document, which was never before made public ; and may hereafter be useful to the freemen of the Borough for occasional reference.

A TRANSLATION OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING
CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE BURGESSES OF
MACCLESFIELD, IN THE YEAR 1685.

CHARLES the Second, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To whomsoever our present letters shall come, health. Know ye, that we, graciously affecting,

and willing the bettering of our Borough of Macclesfield, in the County of Chester, that hereafter, for ever, there may and shall be one sure and undoubted method in that Borough, of and for the keeping of our peace, and the good ruling and government of our Borough aforesaid, and of our people therein inhabiting, and others resorting thereto, and that the said Borough in all future times, may be and remain a Borough of peace and quietness, to the fear and terror of the wicked, and a reward of the good, and that our peace, and other acts of justice and good government may be better kept and done therein, hoping that if the said inhabitants of the Borough aforesaid, might by our grant enjoy more ample liberties, and privileges, then they might think themselves more especially strongly bound to employ and show those services, which they are able, to us, our heirs, and successors: of our special grace, and our certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have ordained, constituted, granted, declared, and by these presents, for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, we ordain, constitute, grant, and declare, that the aforesaid borough of Macclesfield, in our County of Chester, may be and remain for ever hereafter, a free Borough of itself; and that the Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Borough aforesaid, for the time to come for ever, may be and endure by virtue of these presents a body Corporate and Politick, in reality, deed and name, by the name of Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, of Macclesfield, in the County of Chester. And we for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, really and fully, erect, make, ordain, constitute, and de-

clare, by these presents, them and their successors, by the name of Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Macclesfield, in the County of Chester, a body Corporate and Politick in reality and name ; and that by that name they may have perpetual successions. That they and their successors, by the name of Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, of the Borough of Macclesfield, in the County of Chester, may be and shall be capable in law to have, obtain, receive, and possess Manors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Liberties, Privileges, Jurisdictions, Hereditaments whatsoever, to themselves and their successors in fee and perpetuity ; or for the term of life, lives, or years, or otherwise, by any legal method, and also Goods and Chattels, and all other things of whatsoever sort, nature, or kind they may be, and also to give and assign the same Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, Goods and Chattels, or any parcels thereof, to do and execute all other acts and things by the name aforesaid, and that by the same name of Mayor, Alderman, and Burgesses of the Borough of Macclesfield, they shall and may be able to plead and to be impleaded ; to answer and to be answered ; to defend and to be defended ; in whatsoever Courts, Place, and Places, and before whatsoever Judges, Justices, and other persons, and officers of our heirs and successors, in all and singular places, suits, complaints, causes, matters, and demands whatsoever, of whatsoever nature and kind they may be, in the same manner and form as any other our liege subjects of this our kingdom of England, or any other body Corporate and Politick, within our kingdom of

England, can or may be able to have, obtain, receive, possess, give, grant, &c. and plead and be impleaded, answer and to be answered, defend and be defended. The Mayor, Alderman, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, may break, change, and make new their Seal at their pleasure from time to time, as to them shall seem better to be done. We will also, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we grant and declare, that for ever hereafter, there may be, and shall be, within the Borough aforesaid, several Members and Officers nominated and appointed, in form below in these presents mentioned. One good and discreet man shall and may be chosen and appointed, to be called Mayor of the Borough aforesaid. Twenty-four good and discreet men shall be called Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, of which Capital Burgesses we will the Mayor and two Aldermen of the Borough aforesaid for the time being, to be three. One good and discreet man, skilled in the laws of England, who may and shall be called the Common Clerk, Clerk of the Statutes, and Clerk of the Peace, of the Borough aforesaid.

For the better executing of our will in this part, we have assigned, nominated, constituted, and made, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, we assign, nominate, constitute, and make our beloved Samuel Watson, gentleman, to be now and after the first, and new Mayor of the Borough aforesaid, to be continued in the first office from the date of these presents until the Friday next after the feast of St. Michael the Arch-Angel, now next following, if the said

Samuel Watson, so long shall live ; and from thence until another shall be chosen, appointed, and sworn to the office of a Mayor of the Borough aforesaid. And we have assigned, nominated, constituted, and made, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, constitute, and make our beloved Henry Barber and Roger Bancroft, to be now and hereafter the first and new Aldermen, of the Borough aforesaid ; and we have assigned, nominated, constituted, and made, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, constitute, and make the said Samuel Watson, and our beloved Joshua Booth, Anthony Booth, and aforesaid Henry Barber, and Roger Bancroft, and our beloved Samuel Blackleah, Henry Davie, William Lunt, Thomas Rode, Urian Dean, Samuel Leak, Thomas Wright, John Blagge, John Hollinshade, George Low, Edward Morecrof, Henry Girton, Thomas Thornley, Edward Stapleton, Edward Cherry, George Burgess, Thomas Oldham, Francis Bostock, and John Houghton, to be now and hereafter, the first and new Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid. Willing that the first Alderman, and Capital Burgesses, shall continue in their said offices respectively during such time, and in such manner as the Alderman and Capital Burgesses for the space of seven years now last past, have continued respectively ; and we have assigned, named, constituted, and made, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, name, constitute, and make our beloved John Moreton, Esquire, to be now and hereafter the first and new Recorder of the Borough afore-

said ; and we have assigned, named, constituted, and made, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, name, constitute, and make the said George Burgess, to be now and hereafter the first Coroner, Common Clerk, Clerk of the Statutes, and Clerk of the Peace of the Borough aforesaid. Moreover, we will, and of our abundant special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant to the Mayor Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and their successors, that the new Mayor of the Borough aforesaid, named and constituted by these presents, and every Mayor of the said Borough hereafter to be chosen for the time being, for and during the time of his Mayoralty respectively, and for a whole year after his departing from that office, and the Recorder, and Aldermen of the said Borough, to be named and chosen during the time in which they shall happen to be in their office respectively, and the said Joshua Booth, until Friday next after the feast of St. Michael the Arch-Angel, next following, the said Anthony Booth, during our good pleasure, and our heirs and successors, shall be our Justices, as well to keep the peace in the said Borough and the liberties and precincts thereof, and to do justice to all those by the Bodies, according to the law and customs of our kingdom of England, that shall threaten any of our people of his Body, or burning his houses ; and to compel them to find sufficient security of the peace for his good behaviour towards us, and our people. To preserve correct the statutes concerning Artificers and Labourers, Weight

and Measure, within the Borough aforesaid, and the liberties and precincts thereof, and we will and grant to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, that the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen of the Borough aforesaid, and the said Anthony Booth, shall as aforesaid be constituted Justices of the Peace by virtue of these presents, or any three or more of them, of whom the Mayor and Recorder of the Borough aforesaid for the time being; we will to be two, shall and may appoint, keep, and hold, a Sessions of the peace in the same manner and form as any other Justices, to preserve the peace, or to hear and determine misdeeds or transgressions committed, may and can, or shall or may be able to assign and be assigned, in any County of England for the future. And that every such Mayor for and during the time of his Mayoralty respectively, and for one whole year after his going out of that office respectively, and all and every such Recorder and Alderman of the Borough aforesaid, and the aforesaid Joshua Booth, and the said Anthony Booth, or any three of them, of whom we will the Mayor and Recorder of the Borough aforesaid for the time being to be two, may execute and do all other things within the Borough aforesaid and the liberty and precincts thereof, as other our Justice of the Peace in any County of our kingdom of England, by the laws and statutes of the said kingdom of England ought or can do. Nevertheless, that they may not in any wise proceed hereafter to determine upon any discovery of murder or felony, or any other matters touching the loss of life or limbs within the Borough aforesaid, or

the liberties and precincts of the same, without our Special Commands, or our heirs and successors, and nevertheless we will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do grant to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors for ever, that every such Mayor of this Borough during the term of his Mayoralty, and for one whole year after his going out of that office, and every such Recorder and Alderman of the said Borough for the time being, and the said Joshua Booth and Anthony Booth, or any three of them, of whom we will the Mayor and Recorder of the said Borough for the time being to be two; may and shall be able to do, enquire into, finish and determine all and other singular transgressions, offences, defects, things, matters, and articles, which belong to a Justice of the Peace, within the Borough aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof, for ever, as fully, freely and wholly, and in as ample a manner and form as any other Justices of our peace, and our heirs and successors, in any County within our kingdom of England, by the laws and statutes of the said kingdom, can or shall be able to enquire into, hear, or determine. And furthermore, of our abundant grace, and our certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we give and grant to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, all, and all manner of fines and amercements whatsoever, in any Sessions of the peace within the Borough aforesaid, from time to time hereafter, to be assigned, approved, and adjudged for any

offences, contempts, transgressions, misprisions, and other effects and articles whatsoever, before the said Justice of the peace within the said Borough, the liberties and precincts thereof, from time to time; to be enquired into, heard, finished, or determined; and that it may be and shall well be lawful to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, all, and all singular, such fines and amercements as above said, given, and granted by these presents, to take, levy and collect by the serjeant at Mace, and the proper servants of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, from time to time, in due manner; and the same to the need and use of that said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, to have and enjoy without any impediment whatsoever, from us, our heirs or successors. We will moreover, and by these presents firmly command, that Samuel Watson named in these presents to be Mayor of the Borough aforesaid, before he be admitted to execute the several offices of Mayor and Capital Burgess of the Borough aforesaid, and trust of a Justice of the peace respectively within the Borough aforesaid, shall take the corporal oath on God's Holy Evangelists for the due execution of the office of Mayor, or trust of a Justice of the peace within the Borough aforesaid, and also the oath in that part by the laws and statutes of this kingdom, provided to be taken by a Justice of peace, before the said Joshua Booth. To which said Joshua Booth, we give and grant by these presents, full power and authority of giving and administering such sacraments

and oaths to the aforesaid Samuel Watson, without any other warrant or commission from us on that part to be procured or obtained. We also ordain, and by these presents firmly command, that the Recorder and Aldermen of the Borough aforesaid, and the said Joshua Booth, and Anthony Booth by these presents nominated and constituted, before they, or any of them be admitted to the execution of their offices respectively, and to the trust of Justice of the peace of the Borough aforesaid, they and every of them, shall take the corporal oath on God's Holy Evangelists for the due execution of their offices respectively, within the Borough aforesaid, required to be taken by Justices of peace; and also the Capital Burgesses, and Common Clerk of the Borough aforesaid, in these presents nominated and constituted, before they, or any of them be admitted to the execution of their offices, shall severally take the corporal oath, well and faithfully to execute such things as touch their offices respectively, before the said Samuel Watson. To which Samuel Watson, we give and grant all power and authority of giving and administering such sacraments and oaths, to the said Justices of the peace, and officers or persons aforesaid respectively, without any other warrant or commission from us, on that part to be procured or obtained. Furthermore we will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do grant to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid for the time being, that the Serjeants at Mace within the Borough aforesaid, who are nominated or constituted in these presents, and who use to be within the Borough

aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof, from henceforth for ever, in convenient time after the date of these presents, may and shall be chosen, appointed, and sworn by, and before the Mayor of the Borough aforesaid for the time being, or by such person and in such manner and form as heretofore hath been used by ancient custom in the said Borough, any thing in these presents to the contrary notwithstanding. We further will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and their successors, that whensoever it shall happen that any Mayor, Alderman, or Capital Burgess of the Borough aforesaid for the time being shall die, or be removed, or go out of his or their office, or offices, whom and which we will to be removable, and removed for a reasonable cause, as heretofore it hath been accustomed in the said Borough; or in case of any vacancy of the inferior officers of the Borough aforesaid, another fit person from time to time shall be chosen, sworn, and appointed to and in their offices respectively in due manner, by such person and in such place and manner, as hath been used in the said Borough for the space of seven years now last past; and he and they shall execute their office or offices, place or places, to which he or they shall be so chosen and sworn, for such time and times; and he or they shall be removed from thence in such manner as in the like cases hath been accustomed in the Borough aforesaid. We further will, and reserve to us, our heirs, and successors, full power and authority from time to time,

and at all times hereafter, of constituting and appointing by our commission, or our heirs and successors, one or more persons to be Justices of our peace, our heirs and successors within the Borough aforesaid, the liberties, limits, and precincts thereof. Provided always and by these presents we reserve to us, our heirs, and successors, full power and authority from time to time, and at all times hereafter, at the will and good pleasure of us, our heirs, and successors, by any order of us, our heirs, and successors made in privy council, and under the seal of the said privy council signified ; to remove the Mayor, or Recorder, Common Clerk, Coroner, and any and every of the Aldermen, Justice of the peace, Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, by these presents nominated and constituted, or hereafter to be chosen or nominated ; and to declare him or them to be removed, &c. as often as we, our heirs, and successors, by any such order made in privy council, shall declare such Mayor, Recorder, Common Clerk, or any or every of the Aldermen, Justices, or Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid for the time being, him or them so declared or to be declared, to be removed as aforesaid : that then, and so often, the Mayor, Recorder, Common Clerk, Coroner, and any and every of the Aldermen, Justices, or Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, for the time being, he or they so declared or to be declared, to be removed, shall be removed from their several and respective offices, *Ipso facto*, and without any further process, really and to all intents and purposes whatsoever ; and this as the case shall so happen, any thing to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

We further will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors grant, to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, that the Mayor and Common Clerk of the Borough aforesaid, for the time being, may and shall have full power and authority of receiving whatsoever recognizance between Merchant and Merchant, and to make execution thereupon according to the form of the statute of Merchants, and the statute of *Acton Burnal* ordained and provided; and that the Common Clerk of the Borough aforesaid for the time being, shall be Clerk of the statutes aforesaid; and we create and make the said Mayor, and said Common Clerk of the borough aforesaid, for our Mayor and Clerk, and our heirs and successors, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, we constitute and appoint them to receive and write the recognizance aforesaid, according to the form of the statutes aforesaid. Furthermore, we will, and for us, our heirs, and successors do grant to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors for the time being, or the major part of them, of whom we will the Mayor to be one, that they may and shall have full power and authority of nominating, choosing, and swearing one man of the Borough aforesaid, to the office of Coroner of the Borough aforesaid, to be continued in the said office for one whole year next following. Furthermore, we will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors do grant to the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their success-

ors, may have within the said Borough, a prison for the preserving and keeping all and singular prisoners attached or to be attached, or to be committed or adjudged to prison, in what manner soever within the Borough aforesaid, the liberty and precincts thereof as well at the sentence, command, and suit of us, our heirs and successors, as others whomsoever abiding there, according to the law and custom of our kingdom of England. We grant also to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and their successors, that they and their successors may and shall have within the Borough aforesaid, an house of correction for the punishment and correction of evil-doers, malefactors, and other bad persons; and we will and grant, that the said prison and house of correction granted by these presents, as also the prison heretofore granted to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and their successors, for evil causes, may be, and shall be held respectively in such places within the Borough aforesaid, the liberty and precincts thereof, as the Mayor, with consent of the Aldermen of the Borough aforesaid for the time being shall appoint. We will also, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors do grant to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and their successors, that as often as it shall happen that the Recorder, Common Clerk, or Coroner of the Borough aforesaid for the time being shall die, or be removed, or go out of his or their office; so often it shall and may be lawful to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and their successors, or the major part of them, of whom the

Mayor for the time being shall be one, to nominate, choose, and constitute one or more persons in the offices of him, or them, so dead, removed, or going out as aforesaid. We command also, and grant, that the Recorder, Common Clerk, and Coroner in the Borough aforesaid to be chosen, before they or any of them be admitted to the execution of their offices respectively, they and every of them, shall take the corporal oaths, for the due execution of their offices, and trusts, before the Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, or the major part of them, of whom the Mayor for the time being, we will to be one. To which said Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them as aforesaid, we give and grant by these presents, full power and authority of giving and administering the oaths as aforesaid, to the officers aforesaid respectively, without any other warrant or commission from us, our heirs or successors on that part to be obtained or procured. We will furthermore, and command, and grant that the Recorder and Aldermen hereafter to be chosen, before they or any of them be admitted to the execution of their offices respectively, and trust of the Justices of the peace of the Borough aforesaid, they and every of them shall take the corporal oath on God's Holy Evangelist for the due execution of their offices, and trust of the Justices of the peace within the Borough aforesaid, and also the oath on that part by the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England provided, and required to be taken by the Justices of peace before the Mayor of the Borough aforesaid for

the time being to which the said Mayor, we give and grant by these presents, full power and authority of giving and administering such sacraments, and oaths, to the Officers and Justices aforesaid hereafter to be chosen without any other warrant from us, our heirs, or successors on that part to be procured and obtained. We also will and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, grant to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and their successors, that they and their successors for ever hereafter, may have, hold, keep, and shall and may be able to have, hold, and keep two feast days or fairs for the buying and selling of all, and all manner of goods, cattle, wares, and merchandize. One of them to be held in and upon the 25th day of April, every year; and the other of the feast days or fairs, to be held in and upon the 23d day of Sept. every year, excepting either of those days happen to be upon the Lord's day; and then to be held, and kept in and upon Monday next following the said feast day or fair respectively, at some convenient place within the Borough aforesaid, the liberties, and precincts thereof, as shall seem meet to the Mayor or Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, or the Major part of them; together with the Court of *Pie Pondre*, or Dusty Feet, in the time of the feast day, or fair aforesaid, respectively to be holden; with all customs, tolls, stallages, packages, fines and amercements, and all other profits, commodities, advantages, and emoluments whatsoever, to such feast days or fairs aforesaid, and Court of *Pie Pondre*, belonging, aris-

ing, happening and contingent, provided that the said feast days or fairs, or either of them, shall not then be to the hurt of neighbouring feast days or fairs.

Furthermore, of our abundant special grace, and certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the said Borough aforesaid and their successors, special liberty, and free lawful power, faculty, and authority, of possessing to them and their successors for ever, Manors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Meadows, Pastures, Wood, Underwood, Rectories, Tithes, Rents, Revenues, and other Hereditaments whatsoever; as well of us, and our successors, as of any other person or persons whatsoever; so that the said Manors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments so hereafter to be obtained, do not exceed the clear yearly value of £100. above all charges and repairs of statutes of mortmains, or any other statutes, act, ordinance, or provision heretofore had, made, published, ordained, or provided; or any other things, cause, or matter to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. We also give by these presents, and for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant, to all and singular subjects whomsoever, for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, special licence, free and lawful power, faculty, and authority, that they or any one or more of them, may or shall be able to give, grant, sell, bequeath, or alienate lawfully and without hurt, Manors, Lands, Tenements, or other Hereditaments whatso-

ever, to the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, so that all the Manors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, and other Hereditaments, so to the said Mayor, or Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors aforesaid to be given, granted, alienated, or bequeathed, do not exceed in the whole, the clear yearly rent or value of one hundred pounds, and above all charges and repairs the statute of mortmains concerning Lands, Tenements, or any other statutes, act, ordinance, or provision heretofore had, made, published, ordained, or provided, or any other things, causes, or matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Furthermore, of our abundant special grace, and our certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, we give and grant, to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, liberty and free licence, power and authority, of carrying and conveying water, in and through pipes or otherwise, to the Borough of Macclesfield aforesaid, from all the springs, or from any one or other of the springs, springing or being in the common waste ground near the Borough aforesaid, where the soil belongs to us; together with the profits, commodities, and advantages from thence growing, arising, or happening. The said profits, commodities, and advantages by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, for the time being, to be disposed of and bestowed to and

for the public good, and common utility of the Borough and body corporate aforesaid; and for us, our heirs, and successors, we give and grant, by these presents to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, full power and authority of digging the soil and highways of us, our heirs, and successors, and also of laying pipes in the said soil and highways for the conveying of the said water and springs to the Borough aforesaid. We give them also power and authority, of making conduits and cisterns to receive, and return the said water and springs, so that the soil and pavements so digged and to be digged, from time to time, be and shall be repaired, at the proper cost of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, for the time being. Moreover, of our abundant special grace, and our certain knowledge and mere motion, we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors grant, give, confirm, ratify, and appoint, to the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, all manner of messuages, manors, mills, lands, meadows, passages, pasturages, woods, underwoods, rents, waters, rights of fishery, and to the like offices, officers, customs, liberties, franchises, immunities, exemptions, privileges, power of making and ordaining law, constitutions, acquittances, rights, lands, jurisdictions, wastes, waste ground, ways, commonns, markets, feast days, fairs, tolls, tollage, commodities, profits, estates, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, as many, as great, such as, and

which the late Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, or your predecessors, by whatsoever name, or by whatsoever names, or by whatsoever incorporations, or pretext of whatsoever name, or incorporation they have had, holden, used, or enjoyed, or ought to have had, held, used, or enjoyed by reason or pretext of any Charters or Letters Patent, by any of our progenitors or predecessors, late kings or queens of England, in anywise, heretofore made, granted, or confirmed, or by any other lawful method, right, title, custom, use, or prescript, heretofore lawfully granted, used, had, or accustomed. Yet under the limitations and provisions aforesaid, to be had, held, occupied, possessed, and enjoyed by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors for ever, by such like service, and by which in aforesaid times they were held, and to be rendered and paid therefore to us, our heirs, and successors, such fee farm rents, servants, sums, and demands whatsoever, as many, as great, as like, and which have been wont to be rendered or paid to us heretofore, the same; or they ought to pay. Wherefore we will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, command firmly to be enjoyed, that the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors, may have, hold, use, and enjoy, and may and can be able to have, hold, use, and enjoy for ever, all liberties, authorities, customs, jurisdictions, franchises, exemptions, and acquittances aforesaid, according to the tenor and effect of these our Letters

Patent, without occasion or impediment, of us, our heirs, or successors, justices, sheriffs, excheator, other bailiffs, or servant of us, our heirs, or successors whatsoever, not being willing that the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors or any one of them, by reason of the premises, or any of them, by us, or our heirs, or successors, justices, sheriffs, or other bailiffs, or servants for us, our heirs, or successors whatsoever, should thence be molested, or grieved, or in anywise he or they should be troubled, molested, or vexed. Therefore that express mention shall be made of the true yearly value of the certainty of the premises, or any of them, or of other gift, granted by us or any of our progenitors, or predecessors, to the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Macclesfield aforesaid. For testimony whereof we have made these our Letters to become Patent. Witness myself at Westininster, the 19th day of November, in the 36th year of our reign.”

According to the Charter granted in 1598 by Queen Elizabeth to the Borough of Macclesfield, the Mayor and Capital Burgesses are empowered to make bye laws for the good government of the town. They are, “*to be chosen by themselves.*” Hence they constitute a complete *Oligarchy*, and the Burgesses are without influence till admitted into the number of Aldermen. This Charter also appointed a Head Steward who with the Mayor and one Alderman was to “*do justice.*” For this purpose periodical Courts were held at the Town Hall, but the

office of High Steward for the Crown was superseded by the Charter of King Charles the Second, granted to the Corporation in 1685, which not only ratified the privileges granted to the Burgesses of Macclesfield by Prince Edward, and Queen Elizabeth, but also conferred some new and valuable immunities upon this ancient Corporation. It will be seen on a review of this ample Charter, that the Burgesses were empowered to elect a Recorder, who with the Mayor and Aldermen was to "Hold a Sessions of the peace, to hear and determine misdeeds or transgressions committed within the Borough, and the precincts thereof. Nevertheless they may not determine upon any discovery of murder or felony, or any other matter touching the loss of life or limbs within the Borough."

This Charter also grants to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, all manner of fines and amercements at any Sessions of the peace within the Borough, to be levied by the Sergeant at Mace, and the proper servants of the Mayor; the customs, tolls, &c. on market and fair days; the liberty and authority of conveying water in pipes or otherwise from the springs on the common to the town, "*with the profits from thence arising, by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses for the time being, to be disposed of and bestowed to and for the public good, and common utility of the Borough and Body Corporate aforesaid.*" The springs thus bestowed by royal munificence are excellent, but a most exorbitant price is required by the Corporation from those householders

whom they supply with water; and hitherto the "Body Corporate and Politic." has adhered to only one part of the injunction in the Charter, and appropriated the *profits* to itself, totally overlooking or excluding the majority of the inhabitants of the Borough from any share in the annual income thus obtained. The sum required is proportionate to the rent of the houses, and has within these few years been trebled, so that householders who formerly paid eight shillings yearly for water, now pay twenty-four.

It is often asserted that the Corporation of Macclesfield are rich, and well they may, since they keep all the public emoluments to themselves, and the inhabitants of the town are compelled to pay for every improvement. Thus if a new bridge is made, an additional Highway *Ley*, as it is called in the barbarous jargon of Projectors, is levied; and since an Act of Parliament has been obtained for lighting the town, the people will doubtless have to pay pretty handsomely for their peeping.

According to the Charter granted by Charles the Second, the Mayor and Justices of the Borough of Macclesfield, are required by their oath to "*preserve correct the statutes concerning weight and measure,*" but how many of them have of late years paid any attention to this solemn engagement? One Mayor, indeed, some years ago ordered a board to be fixed up in the public market with a declaration painted on it, that he would put the law in force against regraters and forestallers; this menace for a short time overawed the fraudulent, but as it was not followed up

with proper vigour by the infliction of pains and penalties, the formidable board was soon pointed at as an object of ridicule, and imposition flowed uninterruptedly in its usual channel. As a preventive of extortion, the markets should be so regulated that no green-grocer, huxter, or retailer, of provisions ought to be permitted to purchase any of the articles brought for sale from the farms, till the inhabitants of the town were supplied; and in order to render this regulation of any real and permanent utility to the industrious part of the community, the people employed in the silk and cotton manufactories, and all workmen in general in the town and neighbourhood, ought to be paid their wages weekly on *Friday* evening, that they might be enabled to purchase their necessaries in Saturday's market. The retailers of provisions in shops ought also to be interdicted under a severe penalty, from selling any of the goods purchased in the market, *on the same day*; and thus, the farmers would be paid a fair price for their produce; the different articles of food would be purchaseable at a much cheaper and more regular rate than they are at present; and the extortion of petty shopkeepers would be prevented. Similar regulations would also reduce the price of butcher's meat, and perhaps in no other town are greater abuses practised in the shambles than in this Borough, where fleshmeat unfit for the use of any human being is frequently offered for sale without shame, and with perfect impunity.

But it is among "*the rogues in grain*," that the greatest abuses have hitherto been practised. To say

nothing of the inferiority of their meal and flour, it is well known that systematic extortion has been reduced to a science by those adepts in fraud, and with a dexterity peculiar to themselves they have contrived to extract a good income out of the pockets of thousands who earn weekly wages in this populous town. It is the invariable custom with several mealmen who frequent Macclesfield market, to take their meal and flour to one or other of *four Alehouses*, and having unloaded their carts of a principal part of their goods, they repair with a few bags to the market-house under the Town-Hall, where they demand and obtain the highest prices. They afterwards supply the bakers, and dealers in flour and meal, with sufficient quantities from their *store-houses*, and the public are thus left without redress, at the mercy of a most unprincipled knot of extortioners.

An upright and public-spirited Mayor might soon rectify these abuses; but the task is too hard for indolence, too low for pride, too hazardous for the timid, too troublesome to the gentleman intent on self-gratification, and too unprofitable to the man of business, absorbed in the pursuit of gain.

CHAPTER III.

Extracts from the Records of Macclesfield, illustrative of memorable events—Remarkable and destructive Tornado in the year 1662—The Silk Manufacture established in Macclesfield in the seventeenth Century.

MUCH importance has been attached by antiquaries to the records of Cities and Towns, in illustration of the progress of society in those communities, and where such annals have been regularly kept, they undoubtedly afford valuable materials for the historian. But in the dark ages of monastic superstition, the use of the pen was almost exclusively confined to an indolent and avaricious clergy; the common people, and even the nobility were illiterate; and consequently, little information has been preserved of memorable transactions in the days of yore.

Great cities indeed, such as London and Paris, have for many ages been peculiarly interesting as the seat of the government of the respective countries, and the momentous events and transactions which called forth all the energies of the human mind were perpetuated by monuments, inscriptions, and the recording pen of the annalist; but in smaller communities, few memorable incidents occurred, and one generation followed another successively, in all the quiescence of obscurity.

Such was the state of Macclesfield in common with many other towns, for centuries, and it is no disparage-

ment of the real importance of this flourishing seat of a valuable manufacture to assert the fact, that it is only in the present age that it became remarkable for its increasing prosperity, and the skill and ingenuity of its inhabitants.

Macclesfield may, indeed, claim the honour of being a Royal Manor since the thirteenth century. In the year 1261, it was the property of Prince Edward, heir apparent to the crown of England; and in 1270 it was conferred by that prince upon his Consort Eleanor. When he ascended the throne in 1272, by the title of Edward the First, his Queen still retained the Manor of Macclesfield, and in 1279, she came to this town, and founded the parochial Chapel of St. Michael, now called the Old Church. We have no account of the pompous processions and other solemnities of that memorable event, when Eleanor, Queen of England, at once honoured the Burgesses with a visit, and a peculiar mark of her royal condescension.

From that period till the reign of Edward the Fourth, Macclesfield continued an obscure place, in a remote part of Cheshire, and only remarkable for its extensive forest. In that respect indeed it seems to have had some claim to the attention of the Sovereign, for Edward appointed Thomas Lord Stanley to the offices of Master-forrester of the Forest of Macclesfield, and hereditary Steward of the Courts of the Liberty and Hundred. These offices have since continued in the family, except during the interregnum, when Oliver Cromwell conferred them on Sir William Brereton; but on the restoration in 1660, they reverted to the House of Stanley.

The records of Macclesfield principally consist of the transactions in the Court Leet and View of Frank Pledge, and the Court of Record, held monthly for the Liberty of the Hundred, and for the Manor and Forest of Macclesfield, by the Deputy Steward of the Earl of Derby. But they are mostly a dry detail of petty transactions, equally uninteresting and unworthy of notice, with the exception of the following brief but curious memoranda.

In the year 1513, Sir Edmund Savage, Mayor of Macclesfield, and several of the Burgesses of that town, fell at the Battle of Flodden Field, fought between the English, commanded by the Earl of Surrey, and the Scotch, led by their King, James the Fourth, in person, in which the latter were discomfited, and their sovereign slain.

When the republican cause triumphed, and Charles the First was beheaded by the Parliament for his arbitrary exactions, the different cities and towns of England, yielding to this political revolution, acknowledged the authority of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector. During the Protectorate, General Fairfax, who had been distinguished for his courage and skill, came to Macclesfield, where he was received by the Mayor and Burgesses with great respect, and entertained at the expence of the Corporation. The entertainment on this occasion cost *one shilling and three-pence*, a proof of the prudence and temperance of the "Body Corporate and Politick," and of the cheapness of provisions in this town about the middle of the seventeenth century.

The ancient records of the public courts of Macclesfield, are stated by Messrs. Lysons to be "in good preservation from the time of Edward the Third," but this is not true; for Mr. Samuel Rowbotham, and Mr. Browne, on searching them a few years ago, *to decide a wager* respecting the battles of Bosworth, and Flodden, found many of the leaves so much damaged by moisture, that they mouldered away on being touched.

In the third year of the reign of Charles the Second, a Tornado rose in the Forest of Macclesfield, and swept all before it for some miles, but did not extend to the town. The account of this phenomenon is extracted from a book published in London in 1682, and entitled, "Admirable Curiosities, Rarities, and Wonders, in England, Scotland, and Ireland."

"July 20th, 1662, was a very stormy and tempestuous day in many parts of Cheshire, and Lancashire; at Ormskirk there was such a storm of hail, as brake the glass windows, and did much hurt to their corn. Mr. Heywood measured a hailstone, after some of it was wasted, and found it four inches about, others being thought larger; the same day in the afternoon in the Forest of *Maxfield*, in Cheshire, there arose a great pillar of smoke, in height like a steeple, and judged twenty yards broad, which making a most hideous noise, went along the ground six or seven miles, levelling all in the way; it threw down fences and stone walls, and carried the stones a great distance from their places, but happening upon Moorish ground *not inhabited*, it did the less hurt. The ter-

rible noise it made so frightened the cattle, that they ran away, and were thereby preserved; it passed over a corn field, and laid it as even with the ground as if it had been trodden down by feet: it went through a wood and turned up above an hundred trees by the roots; coming into a field full of cocks of hay ready to be carried in, it swept all away, so that scarce a handful of it could afterward be found, only it left a great tree in the middle of the field, which it had brought from some other place. From the Forest of *Maxfield* it went up by a town called *Taxal*, and thence to *Wai-ly-Bridge*, where, and no where else, it overthrew an house or two, yet the people that were in them received not much hurt, but the timber was carried away nobody knew whither. From thence it went up the hills into Derbyshire, and so vanished. This account was given by Mr. Hurst, Minister of *Taxal*, who had it from an eye witness."

About the middle of the seventeenth century, Macclesfield was celebrated for its manufacture of buttons of silk and mohair, wrought with the needle, and worn on full trimmed suits. This manufacture was the staple of the town for ages; and among other improvements in this branch of trade, small machines were invented here for winding silk, and making twist. Stockport also shared this profitable manufacture, and it is even doubtful whether the silk trade was introduced first into that town or Macclesfield. Small quantities of Silk were also manufactured at Leek into ferreting and ribbons about the same period.

About a century ago, an act of Parliament was ob-

tained in favour of the silk-button manufacture of Macclesfield, by which individuals were prohibited by a severe penalty, from wearing buttons made of the same material as the coat. But this act was considered by the people as arbitrary, and totally inconsistent with their constitutional liberties; it therefore soon excited popular odium, and was eventually injurious to the manufacture it was intended to protect. The improvements soon afterwards made by Mr. Taylor, of Birmingham, in the manufacture of metal buttons, both plated and gilt, and of the most perfect elegance and beauty, in a great degree set aside the manufacture of Macclesfield buttons. But the time was approaching which was to be a distinct *era* in the history of Macclesfield, by the establishment of the silk manufacture to an extent and perfection formerly unknown in England.

The immunities conferred on the freemen of this Borough, though of little value, seem to have been highly prized, nor were the Burgesses of Congleton less tenacious of their peculiar privileges. Hence disputes sometimes arose between the two corporations, and in the year 1729, the Mayor of Macclesfield having compelled some freemen of Congleton to pay pickage and toll, the Corporation of Congleton objected to this infringement of their Charter, and after a correspondence on the subject, the Mayor, Justices, and Aldermen of both towns met in Feb. 1730, and entered into a written agreement, by which the Burgesses of both Corporations were mutually exempted from the payment of tolls, and other exac-

tions such as had formerly been extorted in Macclesfield and Congleton.

About this time too, the Corporation of Macclesfield, like that of Congleton, over-valued their franchiss, and prevented persons skilful in handicraft arts, from settling among them and pursuing their trades, except they purchased their freedom at the price of ten pounds, an exorbitant sum in those days when the trade and population of this town were both inconsiderable. The Corporation of Macclesfield, however, in imitation of that of Liverpool, wisely relaxed from the severity of this prohibitory system; and ingenious strangers were encouraged to come hither, and contribute by their skill to the prosperity of the community, while they at the same time obtained sufficient emolument.

No biographer has perpetuated the name of the ingenious artist, who first began the manufacture of silk in Macclesfield. Indeed at the time above-mentioned, or about the middle of the seventeenth century, the common rudiments of English education were little known in this part of England, though Macclesfield could boast of her free Grammar School as early as the commencement of the sixteenth century, when Sir John Percival so liberally founded and endowed that Institution, which was afterwards completely established by the munificence of the Regency who acted in the name of Edward the Sixth. At a time then, when English literature was little known and less prized by a people, on whom the light of the Reformation had just begun to shine, and

who finally broke the trammels of priestcraft and tyranny at the glorious Revolution of 1688, no pains were taken to record the actions of patriotic and enlightened men who devised useful arts, improved manufactures, and extended the sphere of British commerce to every region of the habitable globe. Hence the individuals who were the ornaments of Macclesfield in former ages, are unrecorded, and gone to receive the reward of their beneficence and patriotism, in another world.

CHAPTER IV.

Macclesfield invaded by the Scotch Rebels in 1745—General alarm throughout Cheshire—Curious deed of Assignment.

IN the foregoing part of this history of a populous trading town, but few facts have been detailed illustrative of its progressive improvement, or of remarkable transactions here in the more remote ages, because few documents were obtainable, and mere tradition could not be adopted instead of an authentic record.

During the last Scotch Rebellion, the inhabitants of Macclesfield were alarmed by a visit from the army of Prince Charles Edward Stewart, the Pretender to the Crown of England, who marched into this town at the head of his troops, on Sunday the 1st of December O. S. 1745, and set up his standard at his headquarters, a house in Jordan-Gate. The Scotch remained but two days in Macclesfield, and though undisciplined and boisterous, they did not injure the persons or destroy the property of the inhabitants, except in the article of food, of which they took a supply. They amounted to some thousands of men, chiefly of the Highland Clans, led by their Chieftains. They were mostly armed with the broad sword and targe, a kind of shield. A small proportion of them were

musketeers, and besides their general Prince Edward, they were commanded by several Scotch nobleman of distinction, particularly the Duke of Perth, the Duke of Athol, the Marquis of Dundee, the Marquis of Montrose, the Earl of Cromartie, and eleven other Scottish noblemen, and thirteen Knights, mostly Highland Chiefs who were knighted by the Pretender, particularly Sir James Mackenzie, Sir Hector Mac Lean, Sir William Gordon, Sir David Murray, Sir Hugh Montgomery, Sir George Witherington, Sir William Dunbar, &c. The troops were but indifferently clothed, yet they appeared to be in high spirits. They marched under the banners of their respective chiefs to the music of the Highland pipes, and the drum. On the 3d of December at six o'clock in the morning, they marched from Macclesfield on their destined rout to London, arrived in Leek about ten o'clock in the forenoon, and rapidly advanced towards Derby. But though

“ The Stuart leaning on the Scot,
Pierc'd to the very centre of the realm,
In hopes to seize his abdicated helm ;”

his progress was suddenly stopped at Derby by the intelligence that the Duke of Cumberland, with an army of veterans had been recalled from Germany, and was actually advancing against him from Newcastle in Staffordshire. He instantly retreated with the greatest precipitation, repassed through Leek on Saturday the 7th of December, and proceeding through Buxton, was obliged to cross the river Mersey

by a ford in consequence of Stockport bridge being pulled down to retard his retreat. The battle of Cullo-den, fought on the 16th of April, 1746, terminated the rebellion, and all the future hopes of the Pretender, who after many "hair breadth 'scapes," was fortunate enough to reach the coast of France in safety.

Yet inefficient as the Scotch rebel army really was, to achieve the bold project of a revolution, the people of England were under no small apprehensions respecting the efforts of the Pretender to recover that Crown of which he had been deprived by the superstitious bigotry of his ancestor James the Second. During the public alarm, some timid individuals in Cheshire, actually sold their property and removed to what they considered a place of greater security; and the following curious document, copied from the original deed, will at once elucidate the fact, and shew the low rate at which goods were then valued.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, John Swindells, of Raynor, in the Parrish of Prestbury, and County of Chester, gent. have, in consideration of the sume of sixty-five pounds of lawful money of Great Brittain, to me in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, by my Mother-in-law, Sarah Dearneley, now of, or in Raynor, in the parrish and county aforesaid, widow, the receipt whereof I do fully acknowledge, and myself fully therewith satisfied, have bargained, sold, and by these presents doo bargain and sell unto the said Sarah Dearneley, six coves, four year old calves, two mares, one cart and wheels, one plow, and all other husban-

dry geire implements; and all the goods, household stuff, implements of household, and all other goods whatsoever, mentioned or intended to be mentioned, of what nature, kind, or property the same may be, remaining or being in the custody and possession of me the said John Swindells, or elsewhere can be found within the realme of Great Brittain. *To have and to hold*, all and singular the said goods and premises, and every part and parcell of them, by these presents bargained and sould unto the said Sarah Dearneley, her executors, administrators, and assigns for ever. And I, the said John Swindells, for my selfe, my executors, and administrators, all and singular the said goods, chattles, household stuffe and implements, unto the said Sarah Dearneley, her executors, administrators, and assignes, against me the said John Swindells, my executors, administrators, and assignes, and against all and every other person and persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant and for ever defend by these presents, of which Goods, I, the said John Swindells, have put the said Sarah Dearneley in full possession, by delivering her one pewter dish, in full of all the said premises, at the sealing hereof. In witness whereof, I, the said John Swindells, have hereunto put my hand and seale, this third day of March, in the twelfth year of the reigne of our So-veraigne King George, in the yeare 1745.

JOHN SWINDELLS."

sealed, signed, and delivered
 in the presence of uss,
Joshua Burdhurst,
Josiah Broadhurst."

CHAPTER V.

The first Silk Mill erected in Macclesfield in 1756—A List of the first twelve Silk Throwsters who established that business in the town—Rate of Wages paid to the Millmen, Doublers, &c. in 1776 Prices of Provisions in Macclesfield at that period—First Cotton Manufactory erected in this town in 1785—Rapid increase of population and deterioration of morals—The Rev. David Simpson settles in Macclesfield.

THE town of Macclesfield is situated at the Southern verge of Macclesfield-Forest, and on the banks of the small river Bollin, 167 miles North-West of London, and 36 East of Chester. It is distant 12 miles from Stockport, 19 from Manchester, $11\frac{1}{2}$ from Knutsford, 8 from Congleton, $13\frac{1}{2}$ from Leek, and 10 from Buxton, with all of which towns it has a ready communication by excellent turnpike roads.

Macclesfield was early favoured by English Sovereigns with peculiar immunities. First, the Charter of Prince Edward, son to King Henry the Third, and afterwards Edward the First is dated in 1261. Another, and a more comprehensive charter was granted to the Burgesses of Macclesfield by Queen Elizabeth in the year 1598, and a still more munificent extension of immunities bestowed on the corporation by King Charles the Second, in the year 1685, the last year of his reign. Yet with all these advantages, Macclesfield from its remote inland situation continued in obscurity till about the middle of the eighteenth

century, when the successful establishment of a lucrative manufacture suddenly raised it to importance. A full century before that time, or about 170 years ago, the manufacture of silk and mohair buttons was carried on in this town. This manufacture became fashionable, and buttons most curiously wrought with the needle in a variety of patterns were worn on full-trimmed suits. But the silk trade of Macclesfield was yet inconsiderable, and it was reserved for the genius of an enterprising manufacturer to establish a branch of commerce in this town, which has contributed to the maintainance of many thousands of industrious inhabitants, and the great emolument of several prosperous individuals.

About seventy years ago, Mr. Charles Roe, a native of Derbyshire, settled in this town. This ingenious man was the son of a clergyman, and had received a good education, which effectually aided the developement of his abilities. He first engaged in the button and twist trade, then the staple manufacture of the place; but the establishment of a Silk Mill in Derby, by an Englishman who brought the model of the machinery from Italy, and the vast profits said to be obtained, by throwing silk for the London manufacturers, induced Mr. Roe to turn his attention to this new and lucrative branch of the trade.

Having obtained a perfect model of the machinery employed in the silk mill at Derby, he engaged a skilful mechanic, who erected a complete machine; and in the year 1756, he commenced the business of Silk Throwster in a building at the Northern end of

Park Green. This was the first Silk Mill erected in Macclesfield, and from that circumstance the extensive street which now reaches from Park Green to the Market-place was called Mill-street.

Mr. Roe prudently entered into the business of throwing silk in partnership with two active assistants, and their success induced others to embark in the same business.

In a short time no less than twelve Silk Mills were established in Macclesfield in the following order.

1. Roe, Robinson & Stafford, at the bottom of Mill-st.
2. Greaves and Huxley, Waters.
3. Jonas Hall, Chestergate.
4. Braddock and Hall, Church-side,
5. William Hall, Chestergate.
6. Thomas Hall, Barn-street.
7. John and John Rowbotham, Waters.
8. Philip Clewes, Barn-street.
9. Greaves and Johnson, Newgate.
10. James Rowson, Dog-lane.
11. Joseph Simpson, Waters.
12. James Mayson, Back-street.

The Silk Throwsters of Macclesfield were for many years employed by the manufacturers in London, who supplied the Spital-fields weavers with thrown silk; the manufacture of silk twist, and buttons was also pursued on a more extensive scale; and sewing silks to a considerable amount annually made for Mercers and Woollen Drapers. The principal throwsters, twiststers, and button makers, by steady industry acquired property; cash was briskly circulated, and many

improvements in the houses and furniture of the opulent inhabitants afforded a pleasing demonstration of successful trade. The habits of the people employed in the silk mills and twister's sheds, were then tolerably decent and regular; their wages moderate, but proportionate to the price of provisions; and general contentment was the consequence.

About forty years ago, or in the year 1776, the wages paid to the Millmen and Stewards was seven shillings a week; that of the women employed as doublers, three shillings and sixpence. Children employed in the Silk Mills were hired for three years, at the rate of sixpence per week for the first year, ninepence, for the second, and one shilling, for the third. Butter was then fourpence per pound in Macclesfield Market; best cheese twopence halfpenny; and prime beef twopence. Mutton and veal were then bought by the joint: brown bread was sold for five farthings the pound, and fine flour at one shilling the peck of eight pounds weight. Milk was sold at a penny a quart.

But the time was approaching when this moderation was to be subverted by excess. In 1785, some Lancashire men came to Macclesfield and erected a manufactory for spinning Cotton on the banks of the Bollin, in that part of the town called the Waters. Here the business was carried on with locked doors, and the workmen were sworn to secrecy. No man unconnected with the manufactory was admitted, but women were permitted to gratify their curiosity with a view of the process of Cotton spinning. As the Cotton manufacture was then in a high state of prosperity, higher wages was given to Cotton spinners than the Silk throwsters.

could afford ; consequently a large proportion of their people left them for the sake of greater emolument. A temporary stagnation of business particularly among the throwsters who had but a small capital, was the consequence ; while the more opulent were compelled to counteract the influence of the cotton manufacturers by advancing the wages of their Millmen, Doublers, and the children employed in the Silk Mills. In a short time after Cotton spinning was established in Macclesfield, the Millmen employed in the Silk Mills were paid about sixteen shillings a week on an average ; the doublers from eight and sixpence to ten shillings ; and children two shillings and sixpence, three shillings, four shillings, and five shillings a week, according to their dexterity.

Large buildings were erected by Cotton spinners in Macclesfield and its neighbourhood, mostly on the banks of the Bollin, and a consequent influx of strangers rapidly increased the population of the town. Mr. Roe and other Silk throwsters allured by the prospect of gain, engaged in Cotton spinning ; but however beneficial that business might be as far as regarded profit, it was undoubtedly pernicious both to the health and morals of the people. The close confinement, and constant application of such numbers of young persons as were employed in the Cotton manufactories were prejudicial to their health, and the evil influence of the bad example of dissolute characters tainted the morals of young persons of both sexes who were exposed to their contagious influence, and but too susceptible of vicious impressions. Nor were the people employed in the Silk Mills free from the pro-

fligacy arising from ignorance, and the promiscuous assemblage of multitudes of young persons ; while the constant confinement of the children in many instances occasioned deformity of limb, and debility of constitution, which were irremediable.

These evils received a considerable aggravation by the establishment of another branch of trade—the manufacture of Silk, which was begun by Leigh and Voce in their shop in Back-street, in the year 1790. Silk weavers from London and Dublin were now invited to Macclesfield, and paid high wages. The success of these manufacturers, induced others to struggle for a share of the gain ; and George and James Pearson, the Sons of the late venerable George Pearson entered with great spirit into this business. Their success was greatly facilitated by the defection of Margaret Mobern, from her first employers Leigh and Voce. She was a skilful warper, and communicated the secret to James Pearson, with whom she lived for several years ; other manufacturers also employed weavers, and the manufacture of Silk handkerchiefs, shawls, and other kinds of broad silk became the staple trade of Macclesfield. This was a new impetus to the population and prosperity of the town : the weavers earned high wages which they improvidently wasted ; nothing that the market could afford was too good for them ; and house-rent and provisions were raised to an extortionate height. Many of the weavers who settled here were profligate characters ; equally destitute of religion and morality, and hence, whatever apparent benefit the town might derive from prosperous trade ; the retrogradation of morals was frightful and deplorable.

But even before this period, and as early as the year 1763, when the Silk manufacture was inconsiderable compared with its subsequent extent, the Rev. James Roe, Prime Curate of the Parochial Chapel of St. Michael, in this town, and brother to Mr. Charles Roe the Silk throwster, complained from the pulpit, of the laxity of public morals. In his sermon on "The reciprocal duties of Pastor and People," he thus solemnly reprehends his hearers. "Some," says he, "are too much taken up with the cares and concerns of this present life, and those choke the word; some turn a deaf ear, when such duties are enforced as contradict their false hopes or corrupt inclinations; some rage against the preacher, when his doctrine reproves their practice; or rather rage against him, in whose name, and from whose word the doctrines are taught. Others, when the word is preached, are talking, laughing, or perhaps sleeping, instead of shewing a proper attention or readiness to be taught." If such was the state of the professors of religion, who went to the Church when Mr. Roe preached in 1763, what must have been the grossness of the still more debased and profligate part of the community who went to no place of public worship? At that time the population of the town and neighbourhood was about 5000 persons, and there were only two places of public worship; the Old Church, and a small Methodist Meeting-house.

But with the increase of trade and population, the remissness and immorality of the people became still more gross and reprehensible, as has already been stated; but they were not suffered to remain long in this

wretched state ; an antidote was provided by UNERRING WISDOM for this vitiation of morals ; and a very extraordinary and eloquent preacher of the Gospel, and most exemplary philanthropist, came to reform public manners in this town in the year 1773; a year which ought ever to be memorable with the inhabitants of Macclesfield. That man was DAVID SIMPSON, who during twenty-six years residence in this town, spent the prime of his life in the service of his Creator, and for the benefit of his fellow creatures. A man who fearlessly reproved the vicious, overawed the profane, instructed the ignorant, and enlightened the dark and degenerate mind with the renovating irradiations imparted to him by the Sun of Righteousness. A man who like Goldsmith's Country Clergyman,

“ Allur'd to brighter worlds and led the way ;”

and like him imitated his Divine Master by works of beneficence. Like the poet's moral pastor too, Mr Simpson was beloved by the unsophisticated part of his congregation.

“ The service o'er, around the pious man,
With ready zeal each honest rustic ran ;
Ev'n children followed with endearing wile
And caught his gown to share the good man's smile.
His ready smile a parent's love confest,
Their welfare pleas'd him, but their wants distress'd ;
To them his heart, his hope, his cares were giv'n,
But all his serious thoughts had rest in heav'n.
As some tall tow'r that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm ;
Tho' round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head.”

CHAPTER VI.

Increase of the Silk trade in Macclesfield—the manufacture of broad silk established here in 1790—First Carriage set up in this town in 1770—diversity of religious sects—pernicious effects of party spirit and bigotry—Macclesfield Volunteers—Anecdote—A townsman insulted by a mob—political idolatry.

THE active benevolence of Mr. Simpson soon effected a beneficial change of public manners in Macclesfield; that eloquent advocate for Christian morality broke the fetters of Satan, and liberated the young, the giddy, and the thoughtless captives of pleasure from the insnarement of vice. Decency of behaviour soon took place of unseemly vulgarity, silly levity, and brutal sensuality; and every class of society in this town felt the meliorating influence of that virtue which was so earnestly inculcated by a popular preacher, whose faith was constantly illustrated by his works.

In the mean while, the staple trade of Macclesfield flourished, new buildings for throwing and twisting silk were erected in every street, and wealth flowed into the coffer of the principal throwsters. Mr. Roe, who had so successfully promoted the prosperity of the town by one branch of commerce, turned his attention to another, and by his skill in mineralogy discovered a copper mine in the Isle of Anglesea, in Wales, during an excursion in that part of the principality. In conjunction with several partners, he employed miners; the

copper ore was conveyed in coasters to Liverpool where part of it was refined, and the remainder sent to Macclesfield, to a smelting-house erected on the common Eastward, of the town. Part of the copper was there manufactured into sheets, and part into brass, and brass wire.

Soon after the commencement of this business, Mr. Roe conceived the idea of opening a communication between Liverpool and Macclesfield by a canal which should pass through the level ground below Kerridge hills, and thence through Poynton, and to the nearest navigable part of the River Mersey. The projector had the concurrence of Sir George Warren, to carry the canal through his estate at Poynton; a bill was brought into the House of Commons to empower Mr. Roe to realize his plan, and passed there; but it was thrown out of the House of Lords by the influence of the Duke of Bridgewater, whose navigation had been opened for the conveyance of goods but a short time before. Thus a plan which would have been highly beneficial to Macclesfield, and the intermediate places between this town and Liverpool, on the line of the projected navigation, was frustrated by the interference of a selfish individual. A communication with the grand Trunk Canal, by a branch from this town, would materially facilitate the conveyance of heavy articles, and promote the prosperity and accommodation of a populous community; while the mutual benefit of the public-spirited proprietors of the canal would also be promoted.

The inconvenience, expence and delay of the carriage

of copper ore from Liverpool to Macclesfield by land, were great obstacles to the success of Roe and Company, engaged in that manufacture. In a few years the business was discontinued, and the smaller buildings of the manufactory inhabited by cottagers.

But the cessation of this branch of commerce did not impede the advancing prosperity of Macclesfield, for it is observable that towns as well as individuals and states, have their time of gradual improvement and decay. The manufacture of Cotton goods was wonderfully facilitated by the invention of James Hargrave, a weaver, born near Blackburn, in Lancashire, who made a machine called a Jenny, by which several threads might be spun at one time, and which was afterwards improved by Richard Arkwright, a barber of Bolton. Enterprising individuals, eager to obtain part of the gain acquirable by Cotton spinning, erected machines on the banks of rivers and brooks, not only in Lancashire but in Cheshire; and the small but rapid current of the Bollin, with its numerous falls, presented many favourable situations for the erection of machinery. In 1786, a company of Cotton spinners erected a manufactory in the Waters in this town, and in a short time several other factories were established, and the increase of trade and population rapidly promoted.

Another source of wealth to many residents of Macclesfield, was the weaving of broad silk, established here in the year 1790, by Leigh and Voce, as has already been mentioned. Their success soon induced other manufacturers to engage in that lucrative busi-

ness. Dye-houses were erected, silk in all its varieties prepared for the weaver and the twister, and manufactured silk to an immense amount was annually brought into the market by successful adventurers in this trade, who suddenly emerged from obscurity to opulence and respectability.

In order to facilitate commercial transactions in this town, a Bank was opened in Jordan-gate, in the year 1787, by Hawkins, Mills, and Co. and when they declined business another Bank was opened by Daintry and Ryle, which still continues to afford very great accommodation to the people of this town and neighbourhood. In the year 1802, Thomas Critchley, mercer, opened a Bank in the Root Market, in a room adjoining the rear of his shop, which was also very convenient to the manufacturers and tradesmen of the town for several years; but the proprietors, Critchley and Turner, stopped payment in 1816; a composition with their creditors took place, and it was mutually agreed that they should pay fifteen shillings in the pound. This transaction has been performed in a manner highly honourable to Critchley and Turner. Since their failure, a Bank has been opened by William, John, and Thomas Brocklehurst and Co.; and whatever objections may be raised by envy or malevolence against Country Banks, they have most undoubtedly been instrumental to the extension of manufactures, and the accommodation of the public in general, when gold was withdrawn from circulation. The outcry raised against Provincial Bankers during the late pressure in conse-

quence of the stagnation of trade, could only originate in ignorance ; for what Banker became bankrupt till compelled to it by the failure of those Merchants, Tradesmen, or Agriculturists to whom he lent his property?

The Silk throwsters and manufacturers, and the Cotton spinners of Macclesfield, carried on a prosperous trade during twenty-five years, or from the year 1790 to the end of 1814, and the improvement of the town kept pace with their success. New streets were marked out, houses built, and quickly inhabited; the dress and manners of the people in general, were more elegant than heretofore, and the plain, and it might be said ill-mannered and uncouth habits of the preceding age, were superseded by the adoption of more fashionable modes of life. Luxury, the handmaid of wealth, soon insinuated herself among an opulent people, whose houses, furniture, and festive boards were adorned and supplied by commerce.

The first carriage set up by a resident in Macclesfield, was a chariot, by Mr. Roe in the year 1770, and among other proofs of the increase of wealth, there are now ten coaches kept by opulent individuals in this town. A Play-house of wood was built in Chestergate, but the pernicious influence of stage entertainments was eloquently satarized by the Rev. David Simpson in a Discourse delivered from the pulpit, and afterwards printed and inscribed to the Mayor and Justices of the Borough of Macclesfield, in the year 1788. Exhibitions on the Stage in this town have since been rather unpopular.

With the influx of manufacturers from several parts of Great Britain and Ireland into this town, men of different sects found it expedient to erect places for public worship, in which the professors of Christianity might adore the God of their fathers according to the dictates of revelation, and the views of their own understanding. Among those sects, that of the Methodists was particularly zealous and active; their Chapel in Sunderland-street, was rebuilt on an enlarged scale, and one individual, the late Mr. Ryle, though a churchman, is said to have contributed the sum of one thousand pounds on the occasion. A large new Church called Christ Church, was also built by Mr. Roe, a Chapel was erected by the Unitarians, another by the Independents, a small Chapel by the Methodists of the new Connection, a Meeting House by the Quakers, a Chapel by the Roman Catholics, and a Chapel on the Common, adjoining Sutton, by a new sect of Dissenters, who have not yet adopted any distinct or peculiar denomination. Besides, nine edifices appropriated to the worship of the Deity, the upper room of the Macclesfield Sunday School has been converted into a Chapel, where the Chaplain of the Institution preaches a sermon, and delivers a lecture every Sunday. Thus there are no less than ten places open for the religious instruction of the 14,000 inhabitants of Macclesfield, and perhaps in no other town of England, are there a greater number of *professors*, in proportion to the population.

Fanatical impostors have from time to time endeavoured to mislead the ignorant and unwary in this

town. About eight years ago, a Mrs. Dannel, as she called herself, actually mounted the rostrum, and preached to a few credulous persons in Macclesfield, and afterwards at Tunstall in Staffordshire. But the apparent female saint eventually proved a frail and sinful daughter of Eve, and so great was her love for the confraternity, that it was discovered she had three husbands living. Her short career terminated infamously, and so must that of every worldling or sensualist, who presumes to make the sacred scriptures instrumental to the acquisition of money, or fame.

It must be obvious not only to the man of the world, but the common observer, that party-spirit in politics and bigotry in religion, have a direct tendency to agitate the violent passions of the human mind, and excite anti-social hatred and malevolence. Different sects of Christians are hostile to each other, because they will not come to an amicable explanation respecting their religious views. One man considers the Church of England "the fairest among ten thousand," merely because he has been educated in the principles of Protestantism; another contends for the superior purity of the Kirk of Scotland; a third eloquently declaims on the superiority of Methodism as a revival of evangelical religion; while a fourth is ready to contend to the death, that the Church of Rome is not only the first, but the only true Holy Mother Church. But the Church of Christ is not bounded by a mere name, or a creed. Its influence, like the omnipotence and philanthropy of its Divine Founder is unlimited; and professions, however loud

or authoritative, are no proofs of the orthodoxy of any sect. "By their fruits shall ye know them," says Christ, this is the test of true religion, without which, extraneous demonstrations of piety, and sacerdotal fopperies, are the mere deceptions of hypocritical jugglers. Whoever claims pre-eminence to the exclusion of another, is under the influence of a sectarian—a pharisaical spirit; and must be wrong. Bigotry is the bane of social and individual felicity, equally in opposition to the precepts of Jesus Christ, and the dictates of reason and humanity. It is our great duty as temporary creatures here, to be charitable; we must all be conscious that we have often been wrong in our opinion respecting common things, let that teach us moderation in the discussion of topics connected with eternity. The way to cherish universal charity is simple and easy. *If we think our fellow creatures right, let us approve; if we think them wrong, let us pity, and endeavour to reclaim them from error.*

The other great object of human contention, *politics*, that cause of so many tragical events, and anti-christian wars in Christendom, has also been productive of much malevolence among the inhabitants of this town during the present age. Before the French Revolution indeed, and when the population was inconsiderable, the people of Macclesfield kept on "in the noiseless tenor of their way," as loyal subjects; but that tremendous expression of public sentiment in Paris, which operated with the resistless power of a volcano, and shook the moral world like an earthquake, reached even the British isles. London, and

after it all the Provincial Towns felt the distant and disorganizing shock, and men began to enquire into the cause of this great catastrophe in the centre of Europe. It was soon discovered that the arbitrary Kings and avaricious Priests of France, had for ages violated the principles of human liberty, and common equity, and the downfall of Tyranny and Priestcraft was hailed as a new and glorious era in the history of man. Politics now became the favorite and the constant topic among all ranks of men in this free country, and in proportion as the French Republic gathered strength, the Whigs of England gloried in its progress. Corresponding societies for the avowed purpose of obtaining a Parliamentary Reform, were organized in the principal Cities and Towns of England and Scotland; Thomas Paine's Rights of Man, a Tract which contained many bold assertions inimical to monarchy was also widely circulated, and its inflammatory tendency was so great, that it was declared libellous in a Court of Justice, and prohibited.

In consequence of the denunciations of the National Convention against crowned heads, the English Government declared war against France in 1793, and the men of Macclesfield who still adhered to their constitutional principles, gave an unequivocal proof of their loyalty by associating as volunteers. There were indeed a few individuals in this town who were of a different opinion. Among others, a mercer, who has ever since been a very loyal subject, presumed to ridicule his patriotic townsmen by the indecent name of "*Billy Pitt's Dancing Dogs*;" but his levity did

not go unpunished, for the volunteers expressed their resentment so openly, that the tradesman to appease the wrath of an armed band, many of whom were his customers, went to their place of parade, and publickly asked pardon for his inconsiderate witticism.

The Rev. David Simpson, then a very popular preacher in Christ Church in this town, prevented the influence of political innovation by a statement of the atrocities perpetrated by Marat, Robespierre, and other leaders of factions in France; the eloquence of the encomiast of limited Monarchy prevailed, and loyalty became not only predominant but so vehement in Macclesfield, that no man even suspected of whiggism could live in it without annoyance from the *cannaille*, or dregs of the people, who were instigated by opulent royalists. During this *furor* of party-spirit, British Whigs, were for the first time branded with the opprobrious nickname of Jacobins, which was derived from the Jacobin Club held in Paris, and among the few Whigs who had the courage to avow their sentiments in this town, in opposition to popular clamour, one individual named Bacon, who resided in Chester-gate, had his windows broken and his life menaced by a mob. His son, who was a courageous young man, soon convinced his assailants, that an Englishman's house is his castle, for he fired at and wounded some of them, and the rest fled with the utmost terror and precipitation. He was, however, so much annoyed by his enemies, that he afterwards emigrated to America. Another householder in this town, was committed to the House of Correction in Middlewich, for a bold and

explicit declaration of his political principles. Such was the preposterous excess to which party-spirit was excited in this town five and twenty years ago; but the good people of Macclesfield are better informed now, and Whigs and Tories can breathe the same air without molestation. When will mankind learn to think with common sense, and act accordingly? We laugh at the absurd idolatry of the Tartars and Chinese, and we condemn the fopperies of Popery, yet overlook the debasing idolatry of political partizans. One faction adores the name, or even the statue of the late Charles James Fox, and commemorates the day of his nativity, as if he had saved the state, or been a public benefactor; another faction worships the late William Pitt, and extols him as a demigod. Yet these eloquent Statesmen were both erroneous and perishable men, more intent on the acquisition of fame than the promotion of the public weal. Indeed among the various modes of idolatry, none can be more debasing than that of human idols! To a reflecting mind, it is pretty clear, that Christendom has for ages suffered many calamities for a blind adoration of inhuman Molochs; and it is very probable from the nature of eternal and retributive justice, that those nations will continue to suffer different inflictions, who pay that adoration to a proud Baal of threescore years and ten, which is due only to the LORD of the Universe.

A war of several years with France, terminated in the peace of 1801, but it was of short duration, and hostilities were recommenced with two-fold vigour, in the spring of 1803. The war between England and the

French Republic now assumed a vindictive character, which was aggravated in 1804, by the assumption of imperial power by that bold adventurer Bonaparte. From that time to the moment of his abdication, the British Government opposed his gigantic project of universal domination with a constancy and energy which finally prevailed ; and at no former period of our history did the skill, the fortitude, and the heroism of Britons shine forth with such pre-eminent glory. What achievements by sea and land ever equalled the victories of the Nile, Trafalgar, Salamanca, and Waterloo ? Those cynical philosophers who declaim on the degeneracy of mankind, will be unable to answer the question ; and while the genius and valour of Frenchmen is acknowledged to be great, let it ever be recollected, that they were excelled by our heroic islanders.

While some of the most beautiful regions of the Continent were devastated by war, England was comparatively prosperous and secure. The superiority of the British Navy, shut up our opponents in their own ports, and we commanded the commerce of the world at the cannon's mouth. Among other branches of trade, the manufacture of Silk flourished in Macclesfield, and experience has discovered that war is more advantageous to this town than peace. A steady and prosperous trade of fifty years duration, has raised Macclesfield to its present eminence, as the second town in Cheshire, for commerce, and the third for population ; and the progressive improvements of the inhabitants in attainments, manners, and morals have also been highly


praiseworthy. Some dissolute and worthless characters may undoubtedly be found in this town, for what community is without its feculence? But a regard for "whatsoever things are of good report," is a very conspicuous and pleasing characteristic of the majority of the manufacturers and tradesmen of the town. The indefatigable exertions of Mr. Simpson during twenty-six years, undoubtedly effected this reformation of manners; while the Sunday-School of which he was the founder, and similar charitable institutions which have been established since his demise, have greatly contributed to the instruction of youth, and taught them to revere their Creator, and be humane to their fellow-creatures.

CHAPTER VII.

Contested Election of a Recorder in 1804—List of the Burgesses at that period—Oath and Certificate of a common Burgess—Celebration of the Jubilee in 1809—Speech delivered to the Inhabitants of Macclesfield on that occasion—Prosperity of the Town—The Macclesfield Courier—Riot in 1812—Controversy between Churchmen and Methodists.

AMONG public events which have from time to time occurred in Macclesfield, the contested Election of a Recorder in 1804 was memorable, because it called forth all the energy of the Corporation. The Hon. James Abercrombie, and J. Roe, Esq. were candidates for the Office; and the contest was maintained with great spirit by their partizans, in consequence of which, several new Common Burgesses were sworn in. The number of Freemen amounted to 271, of whom 112 voted for Mr. Abercrombie; 128 for Mr. Roe, and 31 did not vote.

The following Correct List of the Burgesses of Macclesfield in 1804, will gratify the curiosity of many individuals, from whom it has hitherto been concealed.

 *The names of the Burgesses who voted for Mr. Roe, are marked by the letter R; those who voted for Mr. Abercrombie, by the letter A.*

| | | |
|---------------|----|-------------|
| Alcock Thomas | A. | Dean's row, |
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| Alcock George | A. | Ditto, |
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| * Allen Thomas, Esq. Alderman, | R. | Park green, |
|--------------------------------|----|-------------|

* Those marked with an asterisk are dead.

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| Allen T. Junr. son of Richard, | R. | Sunderland-street, |
| Allen James, ditto, | R. | Back-street, |
| Allen John, | R. | Mr. Hogg's Shop, |
| Allen Philip. Clock maker, | R. | Chestergate, |
| Ayton William, Alderman, | A. | Park green, |
| Bancroft Chiney, | R. | |
| Barber Thomas, | A. | Mill-street, |
| * Barber James, | R. | |
| * Bayley John, | A. | Beach lane, |
| Bayley James, | | Waters, |
| Bayley William, | R. | Ditto, |
| Bayley Samuel, | A. | Ditto, |
| Bayley Edward, | R. | Church side, |
| Bayley Matthew, | A. | Rainow, |
| * Bayley Abraham, | R. | Sunderland-street, |
| Bayley Edward, | R. | Barn-street, |
| Bayley Daniel, | R. | |
| Bayley Matthew, | R. | |
| Bennett James, | R. | Sugar-street, |
| Bennett Henry, | R. | Back Wallgate, |
| Beswick Francis, | A. | Back-street, |
| Blagg William, Twister, | R. | Barn-street, |
| Booth John, | R. | |
| Bosley Rev. George, | R. | Chesterfield, |
| Bradburn Joseph, | A. | Broken cross, |
| Bradburn James, | A. | Ditto, |
| Bradburn Anthony, | A. | |
| Bradburn David, | A. | |
| Bradburn Thomas, | A. | |
| * Braddock Charles, | A. | Mill-street, |
| Bradford John, | | Chelford, |
| Bradford George, | | Ditto, |
| Bramhall Peter, | R. | Broken cross |
| * Breasure Samuel, | R. | Commongate, |
| Broadhead John, | A. | |
| Broadhead William | A. | |
| Broad head James, | A. | |

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| Broadhurst Cyrus, | A. | Mill-street, |
| Brocklehurst William, | R. | Church side, |
| * Brocklehurst Thos. Alderman, | R. | Mill-street, |
| * Brocklehurst William, Mercer, | A. | Ditto, |
| Broster Samuel, | A. | Prestbury, |
| Broster Thomas, | A. | |
| Broster William, | A. | |
| Brown Rev. John, | A. | Adlington, |
| Buckley John, | R. | Pott brow, |
| Bullock Francis | R. | Mixton hay |
| Bullock Joseph, | R. | Rushton marsh, |
| Bullock Thomas, | | Sutton, |
| Bullock Ralph, | | Ditto |
| Bullock Ralph, | R. | Mixton hay, |
| Bullock Ralph, | A. | Near Leek, |
| Bullock Thomas, | R. | Ditto, |
| Bullock Joseph, | R. | Ditto, |
| Bullock William, | A. | Bosley, |
| Burgess James, | A. | |
| Chapman Thomas, | R. | Hurdsfield |
| Chapman John, Butcher, | R. | |
| Chapman Samuel, | R. | Longnor, |
| Chapman George, | R. | |
| Chapman Charles, | R. | |
| Chapman James, | R. | |
| Chapman John, Jun. | R. | |
| * Chapman Joseph, Tailor, | A. | Dog lane, |
| Chapman Nathaniel, | A. | Ditto, |
| Cherry John, | R. | Sutton, |
| Clulow John, Attorney, | | Park green, |
| Critchley Thomas, Alderman, | A. | Root-market, |
| Critchley Henry, | A. | Park green |
| Cruso John, Attorney, | R. | Leek, |
| * Daintry Michael, Esq. | R. | Byrons, |
| Daintry J. S. Esq. | R. | Park green, |
| Davenport Davis, Esq. | | Capesthorne |

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| * Davie John, | A. | Old Church side, |
| Davis David, D. D. | R. | Back-street, |
| Dawson Thomas, Dyer, | R. | Gutters, |
| Dawson Thomas, | R. | Back-street, |
| Dawson Adam, | R. | Watercoats, |
| Day Abraham, Butcher, | R. | Wild boar clough, |
| Day William, | A. | |
| Deane Ralph, Alderman, | A. | Park lane, |
| Deane Thomas, Carrier, | | Butley, |
| Dickinson Jonathan, | A. | Barn-street, |
| * Dodd Chadwick, | R. | Park green, |
| * Downes Richard, | R. | Back Wallgate, |
| Downes Jonathan, { Sons of | } A. | Ditto, |
| Downes Miles, { Richard. | | |
| Downes Edward, Esq. | | Shrigley Hall |
| Duncalf Joseph, | R. | Park lane, |
| * Etchells Philip, | R. | Gutters, |
| Feilden Robert, Esq. | A. | Prestbury, |
| Foden John, | R. | Congleton, |
| Foden Thomas, | R. | Ditto, |
| Foden Samuel, | A. | |
| Foden John, | | |
| Fowler John, | A. | Leek, |
| * Fowler Joseph, Serjeant at Mace | R. | Macclesfield, |
| * Furness Septimus, | A. | Derbyshire, |
| Gandy Joseph, | A. | Barn-street, |
| Gandy Joseph, | R. | Watercoats, |
| Gandy Thomas, | A. | Barn-street, |
| Gatley Edward, Ale-seller, | A. | Commongate, |
| Glegg John, Esq. | A. | Withington, |
| Goodwin Thomas, | A. | Jordan gate, |
| * Gosling James, | R. | Sugar street, |
| * Gosling John, | A. | Cuckstool-pit brow, |
| Gosling Joseph, | | London, |
| Gosling George, | A. | Cuckstool-pit brow, |
| Gosling George, | R. | Sutton, |

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| Greaves William, | R. | Sutton, |
| Greaves George, | | Goose lane, |
| Greaves Robert, | A. | Jordan gate, |
| * Greaves Joseph, Butcher | R. | Park green, |
| Hall Jonathan, | A. | Common, |
| Hall David, | R. | Chestergate, |
| Hall Philip, Attorney, | R. | Ditto, |
| Hall Philip, | A. | Root-market, |
| * Hall Samuel, | R. | Sugar-street, |
| * Hall Samuel, Jun. | R. | Ditto, |
| Hall David, Alderman, | A. | Mill-street, |
| * Hall William, | A. | Ditto, |
| Hall Francis, Pot-man, | R. | Fair steads, |
| Hall William, | R. | Ditto, |
| Hammond Thomas, Sen. Butcher, | R. | Gawsworth, |
| Hammond Thomas, Jun. | R. | Ditto, |
| Hammond John, | | Ditto, |
| Hammond Joseph, | R. | Ditto, |
| Hammond Cyrus, | R. | Ditto, |
| Hammond George, | A. | |
| Hammond Robert, | . | Birtles, |
| Hammond Robert, Jun. | A. | Ditto, |
| Hammond George, | A. | Ditto, |
| Hammond Cyrus, | A. | Ditto, |
| Harrop Thomas, | A. | Park green, |
| Harrop Henry. | A. | Ditto, |
| * Harrop Joseph, Esq. | | Upton, |
| * Haslehurst Samuel, | | Church side, |
| Haslehurst John, | A. | Hanley green, |
| Haslehurst James, | A. | Ditto, |
| Heapy Rev. Lawrence, | R. | Old Church, |
| Higginbotham Nathaniel, Alderman, | R. | Mill-street, |
| * Hobson John, Ale-seller, | R. | Ditto, |
| Hodgkinson John, | | Angel Inn, |
| Holland Philip, | R. | Jordan gate, |
| Hooley Jasper, Sen. | A. | Macclesfield Fore |

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| Hooley Jasper, Jun. | A. | Macclesfield Forest, |
| Hooley Jonathan, | A. | Ditto, |
| Hooley Francis, | A. | Ditto, |
| Hully Jasper, | | |
| Hully John, | | |
| * Hully Jasper, Alderman, | A. | One-house, |
| Hully Thomas, | | Common side, |
| Hurst John, Grocer, | R. | Mill-street, |
| Jackson Edward, | A. | Chestergate, |
| Jackson Josephs, | A. | |
| Jackson Ferdinand, | A. | Rainow, |
| Jackson Thomas, | A. | Ditto, |
| * Janney Joshua, | A. | Waters, |
| Janney Joseph, | A. | Manchester, |
| Johnson William, Wine Merchant, | A. | Jordan gate, |
| Johnson William, | R. | Long Moss, |
| * Johnson Rev. Croxton, | A. | Wilmslow, |
| Kirk Henry, | R. | Barn-street, |
| Kirk Thomas, | A. | |
| Latham John, | | |
| * Lawton Thomas, | R. | Back-street, |
| Leane Robert, Senr. | A. | Mottram, |
| Leane Robert, Son of Robert, | R. | Ditto, |
| Lowndes John, | A. | Congleton, |
| Lowndes Joseph, | A. | Somerford, |
| Lowndes Richard, | A. | Ditto, |
| Lowndes Robert, | A. | Ditto, |
| Lowndes Samuel, | A. | At Robt. Greaves. |
| Mayson John, | R. | Hurdsfield |
| * Morton John, Senr. | A. | Back-lane, |
| Morton John, Jun. | A. | Ditto, |
| Newbold Francis, Alderman, | R. | Chestergate, |
| * Norbury John, Bell-man | R. | Barn-street, |
| * Oldfield Benjamin, | A. | Park green, |
| Oldfield Thomas, | A. | |
| Oldfield George, Serjeant at Mace, | R. | Old Church side, |
| Oldfield George, | A. | Dog lane, |

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| Orme William, | | Sugar street, |
| Orme Henry, Twister, | R. | Waters, |
| Orme William, | R. | Ditto, |
| Orme Thomas, | R. | Ditto, |
| Orme Samuel, | R. | Ditto, |
| Orme George, | R. | Gutters, |
| Orme William, | R. | Ditto, |
| * Orme John, Alderman, | | Chestergate, |
| * Orme Benjamin, | R. | Ditto, |
| Orme Peter, | R. | |
| Orme James, | R. | Waters, |
| * Pierpoint William, | A. | Titherington, |
| * Pierpoint Bancroft, | A. | Waters, |
| Pickering Robert, | A. | Ditto, |
| Redfern Francis | | |
| Ridgway George, | R. | Gutters, |
| Ridgway Joseph, | | |
| Ridgway Jonathan, | | Common gate |
| Roe William, Esq. | R. | Liverpool, |
| Roe Joseph, Alderman, | R. | New Church ground, |
| Rowson Thomas, | R. | Congleton, |
| Rushton Jonathan, | R. | Park green |
| Rushton John, Butcher, | R. | Chestergate, |
| Rushton David, | A. | Withington, |
| * Rushton Thomas, | R. | Poorhouse, |
| Rushton Francis, Twister, | R. | Barn-street, |
| * Ryle John, Alderman, | | Park green, |
| Salt John, | A. | |
| Shaw Mather, | R. | Park lane, |
| * Shaw Samuel, | R. | Fallybroom. |
| * Shaw Matthew, | R. | Upton, |
| Shaw William, | | |
| Shaw Edward, | R. | |
| Shrigley Thomas, Slater, | | Jordan gate, |
| * Simpson Joseph, Alderman, | R. | Barn-street, |
| Simister James, Butcher, | A. | Ditto, |
| Smyth Thomas, | R. | Fence, |

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| Smyth Edward, Son of Thomas, | R. | |
| Smeal Samuel, | R. | |
| Stanley John Thomas, Esq. | A. | Alderley, |
| * Stedman Thomas, | A. | Chester gate, |
| Stone William, Alderman, | R. | Jordan gate, |
| Stone Rev. Thomas, | A. | Ditto, |
| Stonely Peter, | A. | Mill-street, |
| Stubbs Samuel, | A. | |
| Stubbs Roger, | A. | |
| Swanwick John, Alderman, | A. | |
| Swindells William, | A. | Barn-street, |
| Swindells Mottershead, | A. | Ditto, |
| Swindells John, | R. | |
| Swindells Solomon, | A. | Ditto, |
| Thompstone Isaac, | R. | Old Church side, |
| Thornicroft Edward, Esq. | A. | Thornicroft, |
| Turner John, | | |
| Turner Thomas, | R. | Old Church side, |
| Turner William, | A. | |
| Turner Samuel, | A. | |
| * Turnock William, | R. | |
| Upton Thomas, | | Sunderland-street, |
| Upton John, Bricklayer, | A. | |
| Upton David, | R. | |
| Ward Thomas, | A. | Jordan gate, |
| Warrington William, | A. | |
| * Watson Rev. John, | R. | Bannistall, |
| Whaldon Jonathan, Butcher, | R. | Sutton, |
| * Whitaker William, Alderman, | R. | Park lane, |
| Whitaker Charles, | R. | Barn-street, |
| Whitaker John, | R. | Market-place, |
| Whitaker Samuel, | R. | Sutton, |
| Whitaker Josiah, | R. | Sunderland-street, |
| Whitaker George, | R. | |
| Whitaker Josiah, | | Gawsworth, |
| Wilcock Thomas, | | |
| Willcockson John, | A. | Barn-street, |

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| Willcockson David, | R. | Ditto, |
| Willott David, Glazier, | R. | Mill-street, |
| Willott John, | R. | Calvinist Chapel, |
| Willott Joseph, | R. | Watercoats. |
| Willott William, | A. | |
| Wilshaw Joseph, | R. | Sunderland-street, |
| Wood Charles, | R. | Manchester, |
| * Wood Thomas, Tailor, | R. | Chestergate, |
| Woodroof John, | A. | |
| Wright John, Attorney, | A. | Chestergate, |
| * Wright Peter, Town Clerk, | A. | Jordangate, |



THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS

HAVE BEEN

Admitted Members of the Corporation,

SINCE THE YEAR 1804.

Sir J. F. Leicester, Bart. Tabley,
 Wilbraham Egerton Esq. Tatton Park,
 Thomas Tarelton, Jun. Esq.
 William Crowder, Silk Manufacturer,
 George Pearson Sen. Silk Manufacturer,
 Samuel Wood, Cotton Spinner,
 Rowland Gould, Dyer,
 Thomas Boden, Timber Merchant,
 Thomas Grimsditch, Attorney,
 Jonathan Wilson, Printer,
 John Haslehurst, Silk Manufacturer,
 Samuel Pearson, Silk Manufacturer,
 George Pearson Jun. ditto,

George Kent Pearson, ditto,
Samuel Higginbotham, Attorney,
Joseph Tunnicliffe, Silk Manufacturer,
William Dickinson, Surgeon,
John Birchinall, Inn-keeper,
Thomas Ichenor Watts, Linen Draper,
William Bailey, Skinner,
Edward Stracey, Esq,
John Brocklehurst,
Enoch Barrow, Butcher,
James Cockson, Surgeon,
John Frost, Grocer.

THE OATH OF A COMMON BURGESS.

“ You shall be obedient to the Mayor of this Borough for the time being, and maintain the Liberties, Laws, and Franchises thereof, with your body and goods to your power,—you shall not colour any foreign goods within this Borough, but you shall reveal the same to the Mayor or other Officers. You shall keep the King’s Peace in your own person within this Borough: you shall not sue any person that is a Burgess out of the Mayor’s Court of this Borough, when you may have right within the same—you shall not conceal any Writings, Charters, Boundaries, Court Rolls, or Records, touching the Liberties, Laws, and Customs of this Borough, or know any concealed, but reveal the same to the Mayor,—you shall not embezzle any Records, or conceal the same embezzled,—you shall be helping and supporting to the said Mayor and other

Officers in the executing their office, to the utmost of your power—you shall not reveal the *Customs, Laws, and Franchises of this your Borough*, nor the secrets of the Mayor and his Burgesses, but the same keep, and faithful counsel (when you are called) give. You shall attend to the Mayor of this Borough, being lawfully required, finally you shall do in all respects as to a Burgess of this Borough appertaineth,

So help you God."

CERTIFICATE.

" *Borough of Macclesfield,* }
in the County of Chester. }

This is to certify all whom it doth or may in any wise concern, that _____, in the County of Chester, on the _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and _____, was publicly in the Guildhall of the said Borough admitted a Freeman, and was then sworn a Burgess of the said Borough of Macclesfield, as in and by the Records and Rolls of Burgesses there remaining, may appear. By virtue of which said admittance, and of several ancient Charters and Grants, heretofore granted to the Burgesses of the said Borough and their successors, the said _____ is freed and acquitted of and from all manner of Toll, Passage, Stallage, Lastage, Pontage, and other Customs, throughout all Chester and Cheshire, as well by water as by land, (Salt in the Wyches only excepted.) In witness whereof, the Common Seal of the said Borough is hereunto affixed,

the day of , One Thousand Eight
Hundred and .”

In October 1809, the Jubilee in honour of the fiftieth year of the present King's reign, was celebrated in Macclesfield, by the display of flags from the towers of the two Churches, the ringing of bells, and a public dinner given to upwards of twelve hundred inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. After dinner, the following gratulatory address was delivered by a loyal gentleman, to the festive party.

“ FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS, I most cordially congratulate you on the pleasing event which has brought you together, and on the benevolence and patriotism of the gentlemen of the town who contrived, and have now so liberally patronized, the design of enabling you to partake with them in the general joy. What country in Europe, besides our own, can boast of such an interesting scene as this, where the people of every rank and degree are celebrating the longevity and virtue of one of the best Kings that ever swayed a sceptre? A King who is the father of his people and whose highest pleasure and gratification consist in seeing his subjects virtuous and happy ; but whose lot in common with our own it has been to live at a period, and in a day, pregnant with events of uncommon interest and magnitude. Perhaps some of you will understand me better when I say, it has been his fortune and ours to live in very troublesome times, though the evils we have known have been but trifling and partial, when compared with those of other nations. We have heard of the horrors and devastations that war

has made; we have heard the sound of the trumpet calling our brave sons to the defence of their country; but our eyes have not seen their swords bathed in blood; we have lived in comparative peace and security. In almost every other country, we have seen Kings hurled from their thrones, and constituted authorities trodden under foot, despised, and obliterated. And what have been the consequences of all this? Has a greater share of human happiness fallen to the lot of those countries? By no means. Misery, distress, anarchy, confusion, and blood, have rapidly followed. And most of us remember the period, when some dreadful evils assailed and threatened us. Thanks to Divine Providence, and the wise counsels of the day, the efforts that were then made by wicked and designing men, at home and abroad, to introduce them into England, were happily frustrated and confounded; and your meeting this day, is a lively evidence, that our country is still preserved amid the mighty wreck. May it continue to prosper, the envy and the admiration of surrounding nations to the end of time! Should any ask what are the advantages of this country above those of others? I answer, they are many and various. To enumerate them all is incompatible with my design, suffice it to say that our Religion is Christianity, the last best gift of God to man. We have a National Church, apostolic, orthodox, and and evangelical in her doctrines; mild, pacific, and tolerant towards those who conscientiously dissent from her. We have all the advantages of civil and religious liberty which a good man can possibly wish

for or desire. And here too, there is more real goodness, more beneficence, more liberality, more philanthropy and charity, flowing from the benign principles of Christianity, than in any other country upon the face of the globe. Would you shew gratitude to the ALMIGHTY by whom Kings reign, for national mercies, and in what high estimation you hold the privileges of Britons? Evidence it by your love of order and obedience to the laws; by fearing God and honouring the King; and in this way testify your affection and loyalty to your sovereign and your love and attachment to your native land."

Indeed, though ambition with gigantic stride passed through some of the fairest portions of Continental Europe, and overthrew one ancient dynasty after another, and while the Peninsula of Portugal and Spain was stained with the life-blood of those gallant patriots who stood forth in defence of Lusitanian and Iberian independence, England continued not only tranquil but prosperous, and the Silk trade of Macclesfield might be said to be then at its height. The general appearance of the town and neighbourhood, was greatly improved, by a number of handsome modern mansions, built and furnished in a very elegant style, by opulent manufacturers. Many of the houses and shops of the tradesmen were also rebuilt, and business was carried on in all its branches with alacrity and emolument. The constant intercourse kept up with London and other great towns, by the Mail Coach and two Stage Coaches, which passed daily through Macclesfield, on their way to the Metropolis

and Manchester, gave great celerity and dispatch to commercial transactions here, while the manufactured Silks were conveyed by waggons, to their proper destination, and merchandize of every requisite description, brought hither by the same mode of conveyance.

With this influx of wealth, the ingenious part of the community acquired the various means of mental improvement, totally unknown by their ancestors. The Free Grammar-School of Macclesfield, contributed much to the refinement of those young gentlemen whose parents availed themselves of its instructive influence; the Macclesfield Sunday-School, established by the zealous philanthropy of a Simpson, and his humane coadjutors, for the gratuitous instruction of children; the Pulpit, whence Religion so graciously invited the hearer to receive the inestimable blessings of the Gospel with gratitude; and the Press, ever ready to preserve the fleeting ideas of the inventive mind, were conducive to the improvement of society.

In the year 1770, a Library was established in Macclesfield by a few liberal-minded individuals; the annual subscription was one guinea; in 1802, the number of subscribers amounted to sixty-six; they now amount to upwards of one hundred, and their library contains many valuable books.

Towards the close of the year 1810, a weekly Newspaper was projected by two Attornies, a Cotton-spinner, an Iron-monger, and a Printer, residents of this town. A well-written Prospectus, the production of

one of the Attornies, was circulated; a considerable number of subscribers obtained; and the first number of the Macclesfield Courier was published on Saturday, February 2, 1811.

This Journal is conducted on those principles of Toryism avowed in the following paragraph. "Before the close of this Prospectus, it may be necessary that the Editor should state the tenor of his political opinions. On this topic he will be concise. Independent and unbiassed, but by an ardent love of his country; his maxim is, Measures and not Men. Disdaining alike a servile acquiescence in all the errors of a Ministry, or a profligate coalition with the herd of their libellers; constitutional liberty his beacon, he will steer the right onward course of patriotism, sensible of the contempt in which popular opinions are justly held by the great, from the insolence or folly of his contemporaries, his aim shall be to vindicate the claim of Englishmen, in one County at least, to candour and discernment." From the ambiguous tenor of this quotation it must be obvious to the impartial mind, that different parties have very different ideas of political freedom. To a Whig, the assertion that the Editor looked to *constitutional liberty* as his beacon, while he justified the great in their contempt for *popular opinion*, would appear paradoxical, yet this seeming incongruity might be intelligible to a zealous Tory. The late Sir William Jones, who was equally estimable as an ingenious author and honest man, seems to have held popular opinion in much higher estimation.

"What constitutes a State?
 Not high-rai's'd battlements or labour'd mound,
 Thick wall or moated gate,
 Nor cities proud with spires and turrets crown'd ;
 Nor bays and broad-arm'd ports,
 Where laughing at the storm, rich navies ride,
 Nor starr'd and spangled Courts,
 Where low-brow'd Baseness wafts perfumes to pride.
 No :—Men, *high-minded Men*,
 With powr's as far above dull brutes endued,
 In forest, brake, or den,
 As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude;
 Men who their *duties know*,
 And *know their rights*, and knowing dare maintain,
 Prevent the long-aim'd blow,
 And crush the Tyrant, while they rend the chain.
These constitute a State,
 And sovereign Law, *that States collected will*,
 O'er thrones and globes elate
 Sits Empress, crowning good, repressing ill.*"

According to the political principles upon which the Macclesfield Courier was established, the Editor has been a pretty close imitator, and often a copyist of his London archetype. But whatever difference of opinion may exist in the minds of the readers of this Journal respecting speculative points of polity, they will doubtless concur in the general utility of the publication. It has now existed six years, "through good report and evil report," the time of its probation is therefore past, and it is now firmly established. The proprietor has consistently and steadily adhered to the original plan, without deviation from those maxims of

* See Sir William Jones's Ode in imitation of Alcæus.

state policy which actuate the Tories of the day, now a numerous and opulent party. To their cause the political part of this newspaper has been devoted, and by them it has consequently been approved and patronized. But exclusive of politics, the Macclesfield Courier is entitled to the general attention, not only of the inhabitants of this town, but those of the County of Chester in general, and of many populous towns in the circumambient counties, for the variety and importance of information, illustrative of discoveries and improvements in arts and sciences; intelligence of the manufactures and commerce of the civilized world, particularly those of the United Kingdom, and authentic records of remarkable public events. Hence, it is equally acceptable and amusing to the general reader, while its speedy and regular circulation through a populous district, affords the most prompt and profitable communication by advertisement, for the mutual convenience and advantage of the agriculturist, manufacturer, merchant, tradesman, and all persons engaged in public business.

The new Macclesfield Theatre in Mill-street, was opened on the 15th of April, 1811, with an appropriate address spoken by the manager's wife, and received by the audience with applause. In January 1812, the frequency of robberies induced the householders of Macclesfield to form a nightly patrol for the protection of their property; it was continued for some months and doubtless prevented many depredations in the town and neighbourhood.

During the spring of 1812, provisions were dear, and several outrages were committed by mobs, in some of

the populous towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire. The spirit of misrule at length reached Macclesfield. On Monday April 12, a multitude of riotous men and boys assembled in the Market-place at noon, threw about the provisions offered for sale, insulted the Mayor and other Magistrates, and proceeded to the shops of several cheese-factors and dealers in flour and corn, where they committed the most wanton and wasteful excesses. They were dispersed by the troop of cavalry belonging to the town, whose engagement sword in hand, with a mob armed with stones and brick-bats was sufficiently ludicrous, and reminded the spectator of Homer's description of the battle of the frogs and mice.

A controversy begun by an article published in the Macclesfield Courier of February 27, 1813, excited great emotion in the minds of the inhabitants of this town for some weeks. It was entitled, "*An argument for Church and King*," and signed "*Civis*." In it the Methodists were accused with insidiously subverting the established Church, to which they professed themselves friends, and their success in the inculcation of sectarian principles at the Sunday-Schools under their influence were asserted. In reply to this heavy charge of schism, two Methodist preachers then in this town, took up the pen, and endeavoured to vindicate religious liberty. A sharp contest of seven weeks duration, terminated in the Newspaper, by the resolution of the Proprietor not to publish any further communications on the subject in his Journal, and the page which had been occupied by the dull and malevolent aspersions of vindictive controversialists, was again

devoted to the communication of the various intelligence of the day. But the controversy did not stop here; the intellectual combatants, when shut out from the arena of a public print, continued to keep up an occasional skirmish by pamphlets, till the public, by treating them with neglect, soon caused a cessation of polemical hostility.

It would indeed be an unprofitable as well as ungracious task to criticise the philippics of those wordy partizans who sometimes extended an essay to the length of two columns in a newspaper, which might well have been compressed in one eighth of the quantity. With the exception of *Civis's* first piece, which though sophistical and libellous, is written with great force, and a few passages in some of the essays of his formidable opponent *Philalutheros*, the general tenor of those essays is "flat, stale, and unprofitable." An attempt at ludicrous composition was made by one of the adversaries of the *Methodists*, but his pretensions to humour excited the compassion of every reader who understood the common principles of composition. *Philalutheros* wielded his weapon with much dexterity, but all his arguments were unnecessary, for the impartial part of the public, and the benevolent friends of the *Macclesfield Sunday-School*, required no argumentative demonstration to recommend the utility of that excellent Institution—an Institution founded by *Christian Charity* upon the grand and imperishable basis of *Glory to God, and Good-Will to Men*.

It is well known that party-spirit often counteracts the beneficence of the human mind, but in this

instance it was productive of good. The superintendent and the gratuitous teachers of the Macclesfield Sunday-School, asserted their independence, and aided by the subscriptions of a great majority of the inhabitants of the town, erected a spacious, convenient, and handsome edifice. On the other side, the advocates for a National Sunday-School under the establishment, founded another structure equally commodious to pupils and teachers. Thus two seminaries were established instead of one, and the children were gainers by this temporary collision of jarring principles.

CHAPTER VIII.

The first stone of Macclesfield Sunday-School, laid in 1813.—An Act for lighting, watching, and regulating the Police of the Town obtained—Petitions of the inhabitants against the Cornbill—A dispensary established—Depression of the Silk manufacture—Meeting in the Town-field, to petition the Prince Regent respecting public grievances—Petition for Parliamentary Reform—Economy and retrenchment to be practised by the Regent—Happy consequences of such patriotism.

THE ceremony of laying the first stone of the Macclesfield Sunday-School was an important event, worthy to be recorded in the annals of the town. On this felicitous occasion, the manufacturers in the town and neighbourhood indulged their people with a holiday, and the streets were thronged by a multitude of young persons, many of whom had for years received instruction in the Sunday-School. The procession was formed in front of the principal Inn, and consisted of Stonemasons and Builders, a Band of Music, the Committee of the Institution, the two united Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons belonging to Macclesfield, and the Masonic Lodges of Stockport, Nantwich, Middlewich, and Longnor, with their insignia. At one o'clock, the procession passed through the Market-place, Mill-street, and part of Roe-street, to the ground appropriated to the intended edifice, where elevated seats were prepared for the accommodation of the gentry of the

town and neighbourhood. After the usual solemnities, the first foundation-stone, with the following inscription was laid, amid the acclamations of thousands. "The first stone of this edifice, raised by voluntary subscription, for a public *Sunday-School*, was laid by the united exertions of Lodges, No. 454 and 526, of Free and Accepted Masons of this Borough, on the 21st day of April, in the Thirty-third year of the reign of George the Third, King of Great Britain, in the year of our Lord, 1813, and Masonry 5817."

In May, 1814, the Royal assent was given to an Act for lighting, watching, and regulating the Police within the Borough of Macclesfield; but however beneficial such an improvement may be to the inhabitants, yet from the tardiness of the Corporation, it has not yet been carried into effect. An attempt was made in the winter of 1815, to illumine the principal streets with gas, but it is said to have failed, not from want of skill in the chemist employed, but because the Corporation deviated from their plan, by which the whole loss was suffered by the ingenious but unfortunate projector.

A Petition to Parliament against the proposed alteration in the Corn Laws, was signed by upwards of five thousand inhabitants of Macclesfield, and forwarded to one of the Representatives of the County of Chester, on the first of June, 1814. Another Petition on the same subject, was signed by nearly ten thousand inhabitants of this Borough and its Neighbourhood, in March, 1815; but like all similar petitions from more than one fourth part of the male population of England, those *remonstrances* proved ineffectu-

al, and were totally overlooked or neglected by the Legislature.

Macclesfield participated in the national joy, on the restoration of peace in the summer of 1814; several flags with emblematical devices were displayed on flag-staves above the roofs of the manufactories for a week; nay a Silk Throwster from London, kept his flag flying over his Mill at the bottom of Mill-street, for more than a month, perhaps to demonstrate his superior loyalty!

In the year 1814, a Dispensary was established in this town. At the Annual Meeting of the Subscribers to this charitable Institution, on the 26th of December, 1815, it appeared on an examination of the books, that 632 patients were admitted in the course of the year, of whom 371 had been cured. The amount of the Subscriptions and Donations was £351. 4s. and the expenditure £350. 12s. 9½d. According to the second report, 934 patients were admitted during the year 1816, of whom 628 were cured. The amount of Annual Subscriptions and Donations, was £362. 1s. 4d. and the expenditure of the Institution £377. 19s. 7d.

At the commencement of the year 1815, the principal weekly market which had formerly been held on Monday in this town, was altered to Tuesday, for the avowed purpose of preventing "Butchers and others from exercising their different avocations on the Lord's Day." This notice was morally correct, and highly praiseworthy in the Corporation, and the alteration had a tendency to preserve public decency.

Early in the year 1815, in consequence of a remonstrance from the Silk Manufacturers of England to the board of Trade, against the importation and sale of Bandana handkerchiefs in this country, the East India Company consented to forego their privilege, because the sale of their raw Silk would be lessened by the introduction of manufactured Silk from Asia. This intelligence was communicated to the Silk manufacturers and weavers of this town, by Messrs. Egerton and Davenport, the Representatives for Cheshire, and received with great joy, which was testified by the ringing of the bells of both Churches.

In Autumn, 1815, the inhabitants of Macclesfield subscribed £542, to the fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of the British soldiers who fell at the Battle of Waterloo. Towards the close of the year 1815, there was a very great depression of trade in this town, and to render this calamity still more grievous, much altercation took place between the Silk manufacturers and their weavers, respecting a reduction of wages. For some months many of the Silk weavers were unemployed, and more than a hundred of them left the town, and went to London, Dublin, and Manchester, in quest of employment. At length the weavers who remained here, yielding to necessity, were obliged to submit to the propositions of their former employers; a Committee which had formerly regulated the workmen's wages, and even dictated the terms to the manufacturers in prosperous times, was broken up, and the weavers now employed work for diminished wages.

But the most singular, if not memorable event which occurred in this town, since the commencement of the present century, was a public meeting of part of the inhabitants, convened by advertisement, in the Town Field, on Thursday, January 2, 1817. From the report of an eye-witness, about 2500 persons assembled, of whom 2000 at least, met to enter into resolutions expressive of their political sentiments, and to petition the Regent : the remaining 500 were women, boys, or persons inimical to the expression of popular opinion.

The following resolutions are given *verbatim*, without note or comment ; for historic veracity only requires a simple narrative of facts.

“ *Macclesfield, January 2, 1817.*

“ At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Macclesfield and its Vicinity, in the County of Chester, held in the Town Field, to take into consideration the cause of our present Distress, and the proper means to remedy the same.

MR. JOHN RYLE * IN THE CHAIR.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this Meeting, that the late unjust and unnecessary wars were the primary causes of all the sufferings of which we complain, by the enriching of a few, and the impoverishing thousands.

* Not John Ryle, Esq. Banker and Silk manufacturer, but a Silk weaver of the same name.

2. That the Taxes in the year 1792, paid by the people of this country, amounted to sixteen millions, six hundred thousand pounds.

3. That in the year 1815, the Taxes paid by the people of this country, amounted to the sum of sixty-six millions, being an increase of forty-nine millions, four hundred thousand pounds, in the short space of twenty-three years.

4. That the National Debt now amounts to nearly one thousand million of pounds.

5. That the sum of forty millions of pounds is annually collected, to pay the Interest of this Debt.

6. That the Taxation and its concomitants, are the cause of our present grievances.

7. That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that the House of Commons does not fully and fairly represent the people of England.

8. That the right of voting is not regulated uniformly, or on rational principles.

9. That three hundred and sixty-two Peers, and the Treasury, return three hundred and six Members; and two thousand six hundred and eleven persons return three hundred and twenty-seven Members. Thus a majority of those who call themselves the Representatives of ten millions of persons, are returned by two thousand, six hundred and eleven individuals only.

10. That it is the opinion of this Meeting, if the Country was justly and fairly represented in the Commons House of Parliament, it would be the means of alleviating our grievances and public distress.

11. that septennial Parliaments are to us the most

obnoxious, as they give to his Majesty's Ministers every opportunity of bribery and corruption.

12. That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that a standing Army of one hundred and fifty thousand men in a time of profound peace, may in a great measure be dispensed with ; and that economy and retrenchment in every department of the State is highly necessary.

13. That an humble, dutiful, and loyal Address, Supplication, and Petition, embracing the foregoing Resolutions, be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

14. That the Petition now read be adopted, and signed by the Chairman and Secretary in behalf of this Meeting, and afterwards forwarded to Sir Francis Burdett, and Lord Cochrane, respectfully soliciting them to present the same."

An unbiassed observer who was present at this Meeting, described the proceedings of the reformers as somewhat farcical. The Chairman, a resident of Macclesfield, sat quietly without interfering in the business of the day, while two or three itinerant orators exerted their lungs for the edification of their auditory. One of these advocates for the reform of Government, proved that he had not attained the *government of the tongue*, for he poured forth a torrent of abuse against the Borough of Macclesfield, and the Servants of the Crown, which richly deserved castigation. This political luminary, equally antic in his gesticulation, and coarse in his ideas and language, termed this town "*rotten Macclesfield!*" and evinced his zeal in the

cause of Whiggism, by exclaiming with great emphasis, "the villain, villain, villain Castlereagh!" That the vociferation of such a worthy, would be a disgrace to any cause, no individual of manly feelings will deny. Whatever may be the errors of Lord Castlereagh, he certainly is the only successful war Minister of the present age. Pitt and Fox were great men; but the former carried on the war for years to little purpose, the latter talked of peace and did nothing, while Castlereagh has succeeded beyond the hopes of his party. By his diplomatic dexterity, he called into action all the mighty energies of Russia, Austria, and Prussia against France, and was actually the *paymaster* of the proudest sovereigns of the Continent; by his perseverance, he overthrew the greatest General the world ever saw; and by his address he contrived that all the glory of victory, however dearly achieved, should adorn the banners of the British army. Lord Castlereagh is now at the head of the Tories, and if he were to resign his official situation, they could not find a man properly qualified to be his successor. The true cause of the popular clamour against Lord Castlereagh is, that he boldly stands forward as the responsible Minister of the Crown in these calamitous times; and the most enlightened and virtuous man that ever existed, would now be censured in that situation.

The Petition from the Whig Inhabitants of Macclesfield to the Prince Regent, was followed up by another to the House of Commons, of which the following is a copy.

“ The Humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Macclesfield and its Vicinity, as approved at a numerous Meeting of respectable persons, on Wednesday Evening, January 15, 1817 ;

“ SHEWETH,

“ That the House of Commons, as at present constituted, doth not fully and fairly represent the people of England, or speak their sentiments according to what your Petitioners conceive to be the principles of the constitution, which they consider as a grievance, and, therefore, with all becoming respect, lay their complaint before your Honourable House.

“ Your Petitioners, therefore, most humbly implore your Honourable House will take their deplorable sufferings into your serious consideration. It is the opinion of your Petitioners, that the late unjust and unnecessary Wars, are the primary cause of all the sufferings of which we have to complain, which, in our opinion, have, in a great measure, been owing to the defective state of the representation, and the long duration of Parliaments. Your Petitioners are of opinion, that *annual Parliaments* are more consistent with the spirit of the constitution, and we are fully persuaded, that under the present system of Taxation, Trade and Commerce cannot flourish: the Merchant and Manufacturer cannot come into competition with our Foreign neighbours, while thus oppressed with such a load of Taxation; to which may be added, that most obnoxious Law, the *Corn Bill*, the most pernicious Law ever made by a British House of Commons, and which Bill was passed in direct opposition to the voice

of almost the whole nation :—the expences of a large standing Army, consisting of 150,000 men, in a time of profound Peace ; together with numbers of Sinécures, might in a great measure be dispensed with. The want of Trade, and the present high price of Bread, is most grievously felt by your Petitioners, and which, we firmly believe, is owing to the causes we have now stated. Anarchy and confusion we do not wish for ; far be it from us, as Englishmen.—We now implore your Honourable House to take such measures as in your wisdom may seem meet, to remove those evils arising from the present unequal, unjust, and ruinous state of the representation.

“ Your Petitioners cannot but deeply deplore, when they contemplate the confidential tone assumed by his Majesty’s Ministers, in advising his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in returning the answer he did to the City of London Address, which Answer was so insulting to the best feelings of his Majesty’s Subjects, and which Address did so fully and fairly develope the causes of all our sufferings and privations. We cannot with his Majesty’s Ministers, attribute the present situation of the Country to unavoidable causes, nor can we expect the calamities which have befallen this once happy Nation, to be temporary, while the great mass of the population of these United Kingdoms are excluded from the elective franchise.

“ We therefore pray your Honourable House will adopt such measures speedily, as will restore to you the confidence of the Nation, by expelling from your Honourable House, all Placemen and Pensioners, ac-

cording to the spirit of the constitution, and abolishing all useles Places and Sinecures, and causing economy and retrenchment in every department of the state; and finally by restoring to us our just share and right in the legislature. And as in duty bound, we will ever pray."

This Petition signed by four thousand two hundred men and boys, of Macclesfield and its Neighbourhood, including nearly two thirds of the male population, was presented by Lord Cochrane in the House of Commons, read, and ordered to be laid on the table. The people have an undoubted right to petition the King and Parliament for the redress of any grievance; but if the Parliamentary representation is indeed defective, its reformation must be effected by electors in their choice of representatives, for what public body ever reformed itself?

In the Regent's Speech to both Houses of Parliament he says, "I have directed the estimates of the current year to be laid before you. They have been formed upon a full consideration of all the present circumstances of the country, *with an anxious desire to make every reduction in our establishment which the safety of the empire and sound policy allow.*" While the Prince Regent and his Ministers thus voluntarily came forward to avow their intended frugality, those members of the opposition who hold Sinecures, are, it seems, also to practise the self-denial of patriotism, by a voluntary sacrifice of those annuities which they have so long received from the Treasury for doing nothing. Who will deny that this is in-

deed the age of reform, the glorious era of moral melioration among statesmen, so warmly anticipated by sages and patriots.

When the plan of public economy hinted at by his Royal Highness, shall be fully matured and brought into action, the hitherto complex state machine will be so wonderfully simplified, that the managers of its movements will wonder at the want of judgment, or perhaps of integrity, which formerly required so many operators at such an enormous expence to the nation. A review of our history for the last twenty-five years, must convince us that frugality never entered into the contemplation of Pitt, Fox, or their successors, till the present time, when it is first openly avowed in the great senate of the nation.

The Regent, with a most laudable sympathy for popular suffering, has already given up for the public service £50,000, or one fifth part of the fourth Class of the Civil List, which is, it appears, the only branch connected with the personal expences and Royal state of the Sovereign. This is liberal in the Regent, and now that his heart is touched, he may possibly economize still farther, and reduce the Royal expenditure much lower. The sum of £200,000 a year still remains appropriated to him; and when he looks around and examines the uses to which it is applied, he may perceive that like Esop he is overburdened with the basket of bread which feeds many a worthless dependant. By dismissing a multitude of superfluous servants, the weight of his basket and of his cares will both be diminished; he will feel, and rejoice at his

emancipation from the thraldom of absurd custom ; and with renovated powers happily find, that frugality and temperance, are at once conducive to health, and the serenity arising from conscious rectitude.

But while the Regent in this candid manner, comes forward with his contribution of £50,000 a year, why is not the example followed in the other Royal establishments ? The Queen, and the Princess Charlotte too, with her Germanic Spouse, may also give back part of the public money, for the service of the public. But even the servants of the Crown relinquish a small part of their customary emoluments with an ill grace. They are willing indeed to forego *one tenth* of their annual stipend ; perhaps as polite courtiers they wish to yield the pre-eminence in patriotism to their Master ; and while the Prince is an *entire*, they are content with the honour of being *demi-patriots*.

This commencement of a frugal system is auspicious, and must eventually prove beneficial to the people, who will now expect that something still more substantial will be done for the public weal ; and since the chief Magistrate himself has laudably led the way to that retrenchment in the expenditure of the revenue, which may be productive of a general reformation of State abuses, his example will doubtless be followed by every gradation of the servants of the Crown. This is the political improvement which has long been wanted, and without it, all plans of Parliamentary Reform must prove inefficient.

The Regent has now a glorious opportunity indeed, to obtain the highest popularity ; and the unmanly at-

tempt to injure his person recently made by a London mob, has stimulated his loyal subjects to come forward with their congratulations on his escape from assassination, and to avow their attachment. Among other public bodies, the Burgesses of Macclesfield, promptly declared their sentiments in the following Address, written by W. C. Cruttenden, *Clerk*.

“ Borough of Macclesfield, Feby. 12, 1817.

*“ To His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales,
Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Ireland;*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,

WE, your Royal Highness's loyal and dutiful Subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, Clergy, and other Inhabitants of the Borough of Macclesfield, in the County of Chester, beg leave to offer our most sincere and heartfelt Congratulations on your happy escape from the late base and treasonable attack on the Person of your Royal Highness.

We should gladly have sought consolation in the hope that the unknown Assassin was not our Countryman, had not the gross and cowardly insults, at the time offered to your Royal Highness, forced upon us the painful conviction, that there were many others also, who could forget that they were Britons.

Far be it from us to oppose in others the legitimate exercise of a right, which we should indisputably claim

for ourselves, the right of calm and respectable petition for the removal of real grievances; but we do and will perseveringly oppose every unconstitutional attempt at innovation, every malignant and selfish endeavour to wield the energies of a noble-hearted people for the purpose of turbulence and misrule, of treason and rebellion.

We deplore sincerely, and as deeply as the instigators of popular discontent profess to do, the sufferings which, from the peculiar circumstances of our political situation and the inflictions of Divine Providence, have fallen on many of our fellow-countrymen.

We are willing to do more—to contribute all in our power for their relief; and we deprecate, with honest indignation, the shameful attempts to disparage such charitable endeavours.

Finally, we beg your Royal Highness to receive this our dutiful Address, not as the Congratulation of those only whom it has pleased Providence to lift above severe privations and distress, but of those also, who suffering under both are still ready to evince their loyal love to their Prince and Country, looking forward with confidence to the return of those blessings, which (under the favour of Almighty God) they have owed to our happy and glorious Constitution.”

CHAPTER IX.

Gradual increase in the population of Macclesfield from 1780 to 1817—Number of Silk weavers in 1815 and 1817—Present state of the Silk manufacture in this town, and the prices paid to the workmen—Situation of the town, markets and fairs.

THE extent and population of Macclesfield, are more than double what they were half a century ago. In the year 1766, the space now occupied by Sunderland-street, and the smaller adjacent streets, was an open field on the western bank of the Bollin, extending along the valley and side the hill to the end of back Wallgate. At the extremity adjoining Park-green, there was then only one small shed erected by a Silk twister, and now the ground contains nearly one fourth of the houses and population of the town.

In the year 1750, Macclesfield contained only eight streets; it now contains above thirty streets and lanes. In 1780, this town contained 820 houses, exclusive of those in Sutton and Hurdsfield. The first recorded enumeration of the inhabitants, is that made by two intelligent residents in the year 1786, when the population amounted to 7000 persons. According to the enumeration returned to Parliament in 1801, Macclesfield contained 1,426 inhabited houses, 3,279 males, and 4,764 females. Total of inhabitants, 8,745. From 1801 to 1811, the increase was almost incredible; in

ten years about 1000 houses were built in this town, and inhabited as soon as they were finished. By the Parliamentary return, in 1811, of the correctness of which there can be no doubt, Macclesfield contained 1,527 inhabited houses, 49 uninhabited, and 23 building. Total 2,590. The population was 12,299 persons, of whom 5,629 were males, and 6,670 females.

During the years 1812, 1813, 1814, and 1815, not less than 400 houses were built in this town and neighbourhood, and most of them have been inhabited; so that notwithstanding the depression of manufactures, and the consequent migration of many industrious individuals who wanted employment, the population in 1817 may be fairly computed at 14,000; and of this number at least 10,000 persons including women and children, are employed in the different branches of the Silk and Cotton manufactures.

In 1815, about 1,100 Silk weavers and their apprentices were employed in this town; a good workman could then earn eighteen shillings a week clear of all deductions; and some Silk weavers who employed apprentices, received two and even three pounds a week from their employers. At that time the weavers carried every thing with a high hand: if a new house was built, the upper story was generally prepared with large windows fit for a weaver's workshop. Nothing was thought too good for the industrious weaver, and the advance of rent kept pace with his prosperity. In the Autumn of 1815, however, the Silk trade declined; the manufacturers proposed lower wages to their workmen, and after a struggle of some weeks between the

weavers' Committee and their employers, that body which had for some years dictated laws respecting wages, was dissolved, and the workmen after an ineffectual stand, were obliged to work for lower wages. At present there are from nine hundred to a thousand weavers and their apprentices, employed by twelve manufacturers, in nearly the following proportions.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| S. Pearson and Brothers | about 210 |
| George Pearson and Son..... | 200 |
| Critchley, Brindsley and Co..... | 120 |
| Habgood and Parker..... | 100 |
| Daintry and Ryle..... | 80 |
| Wards..... | 50 |
| Haslehurst..... | 40 |
| Cooper..... | 25 |
| Wardle and Co..... | 25 |
| Barlow and Co..... | 20 |
| Norbury..... | 12 |
| Wadsworth | 6 |

Total 918

According to the statement of two experienced Silk weavers, there are about 1000 looms employed in weaving broad Silk in this town, of which one half are appropriated to Bandana handkerchiefs, and the other to figured work. The number of skilful journeymen Silk weavers amount to about 400, of whom about 300 are married, men who maintain 1000 women and children. The number of apprentices, or persons who

are learning to weave in the manufactories and weaver's shops, amount to about 600, so that at least 2,300 persons are maintained by this branch of trade. In 1813, the weavers were paid 7s. 6d. per dozen yards, or 4s. 4½d. per cut of seven yards, for weaving Bandanas of sixteen nails, *double warp*; and 8s. 6d. per dozen, or 4s. 11½d. per cut, *single warp*; but in 1816, and 1817, the prices were reduced to 2s. 3s. and 3s. 6d. per cut. A good workman can weave about 4 cuts, or 28 yards weekly, on an average, which at the highest price would be 14s. from which 1s. is to be deducted for *pin-winding*, and 2s. for shop-rent and wear and tear of the loom, so that the money actually earned is 11s. Learners are employed in some of the manufactories at the low price of 1s. 9d. per cut, and while their productions are of inferior quality, they can scarcely earn a mere subsistence. In the manufactories, the journeymen weavers are paid at the rate of 3s. 6d. per cut, and at present they are limited to 3 cuts, or 21 yards per week; their wages is consequently 10s. 6d. from which, when the incidental expences are deducted, there remains about 8s. payable to the workman.

The principal part of the town of Macclesfield is built upon a pleasant and extensive eminence, gradually rising from the western bank of the Bollin, and commanding a view of the high and cultivated hills about two miles eastward of the town. Two bridges of stone and one of wood over the river, afford an easy communication with the lower part of the town, and the turnpike roads to Buxton and Chapel-en-le-Frith.

The gradual descent of Mill-street, terminates in the level ground of Park-green, from which there is a communication by a narrow bridge over the Bollin, with the houses on Bank-top. The Silk manufactory of Daintry and Ryle, at the southern end of Park-green, is the boundary of the town in this quarter, and the turnpike road to Leek and London, passes a row of well-built modern houses in Sutton, near which, a new stone bridge is built across the Bollin, and a good road leads to Macclesfield Common.

There are two weekly Markets in Macclesfield ; one on Saturday, for provisions; and the other on Tuesday, for grain, flour, butter, cheese, poultry, pedlery, &c.

There are five annual Fairs held in this town ; on May 6, June 22, July 11, October 4, and November 11, principally for cattle, Yorkshire cloths, ribbons, handkerchiefs, shawls, toys and cutlery. The principal Fair commences on the 22nd of June, and usually continues three or four days.

CHAPTER X.

Edifices and Public Institutions of Macclesfield.

CHURCHES.

ST. Michaels's Church is not only the principal edifice of the town, but the first in point of antiquity. It was founded, as has already been mentioned, by Eleanor, the Consort of King Edward the First, in the year 1278.

This church is situated nearly in the centre of the town, on the brow of the hill. The ancient fabric was adorned with a lofty spire, which was standing in 1585 * The nave of the Church and the spire being much decayed, were taken down in the year 1740, and the edifice was rebuilt of stone on an enlarged scale, in the Gothic style of architecture. A square tower of stone was also erected, and adorned with eight pinnacles and a vane. It contains a clock, and eight musical bells, and is a conspicuous ornament to the town. The church consists of the nave and chancel, and a south aisle which was built by Thomas Savage, Archbishop of York, and is called Earl Rivers's Chapel. It is now the property of the Marquis Cholmondeley. There is also another chapel on the south side of the Church, which belongs to the Leghs of

* Vale Royal of England.

Lyme, and contains some ancient monuments and inscriptions.

“Upon the Bollin,” says Camden, “stands the town of Macclesfield, from whence the forest has its name; and where a college was founded by Thomas Savage, first Bishop of London, and then Archbishop of York; in which several of that noble family the Savages, are buried. Here also, in a chapel or oratory on the south side of the parochial Chapel, belonging to the Leghs of Lyme, in a brass plate is the following account of two worthy persons of that family.

“Here lyeth the body of Perkin A. Legh,
That for King Richard the death did dye
Betrayed by righteousness.
And the bones of Sir Peers his soone,
That with King Henry the Fifth did wonne,
In Paris.”

“This Perkin served King Edward the Third, and the Black Prince his son, in all their wars in France, and was at the battle of Cressie, and had Lyme given him for that service. And after their deaths served King Richard the Second, and left him not in his troubles, but was taken with him, and beheaded at Chester by King Henry the Fourth. And this Sir Peers his sonne served King Henry the Fifth, and was slain at the battle of Agen-court.”

“In their memory Sir Peter Legh of Lyme, Knight, descended from them, finding the said old verses written upon a stone in this chapel, did re-edify this place An. Dom. 1626.”

“ On the same side of the said parochial chapel, in an oratory belonging to the Earl Rivers is this copy of a pardon graved in a brass plate :

“ The pardon for saying V. paternosters and V. aves, and a crech is XXVI. thousand yeres, and XXVI. dayes of pardon.”

“ Another brass plate in the same chapel has this ancient inscription.

“ *Orate pro animabus Rogeri Legh & Elizabeth uxoris suæ; qui quidem Rogerus obiit iiii. die Novembris Anno Domini M. V. C. VI. Elizabeth vero obiit Vo. die Octobris, Anno Domini MCCCLXXXIX. quorum animabus propitietus Deus.*”*

“ Above this inscription is the figure of a woman and six children ; with the following words on a label from her mouth :

“ A damnatione perpetuâ libera nos Domine.”†

St Michael's Church was endowed by King Edward the Sixth with £5. 6s. 8d. and by King James the First, with £50. per annum. The Mayor is patron.

The Church-yard is extensive, and contains numerous tombs with inscriptions executed in a very inferior style. Among others, there is an Epitaph on Mary Norbury, of Macclesfield, who was born March 5, 1713, and died March 22, 1812, in the 100th year of her age. She had provided by a penny a week for a considerable number of years, sufficient money to purchase an oak coffin, and defray the expence of her funeral.

* Pray for the souls of Roger Legh and Elizabeth his wife, which Roger died the 4th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1506 ; and Elizabeth, on the 5th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1489. To whose souls may God be propitious.

† From everlasting damnation deliver us, O Lord !

CHRIST'S CHURCH is a large and handsome edifice of brick and stone, It was erected in the year 1775, by Mr. Charles Roe, in consequence, it is said, of a vow made in his youth, that if he should be successful in business, he would build a church as a token of gratitude to God. The foundation was laid in the latter end of May, and the building carried on with such unremitted activity during a remarkably fine summer and autumn, that this commodious edifice, sufficiently capacious to contain two thousand persons, was finished in seven months, and opened for Divine Worship on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25, 1775. The tower, which is of brick, and is square, high, and adorned with eight beautiful pinnacles, was built in the year 1776. It contains ten bells and a clock. The interior of the church is very convenient, and contains two side galleries, and a gallery at the west end, where a well-toned organ is a conspicuous object. The vestry is near the tower, and the nave and galleries, which are lighted by gothic windows, are furnished with neat pews. The reading desk and pulpit are near the East end, and with little exertion the voice of the minister may be distinctly heard in every part of the Church. Here the celebrated David Simpson eloquently and successfully illustrated the doctrines of Christianity upwards of twenty-three years. By his steady perseverance and unshaken fortitude in the cause of truth, he triumphed over those persecuting sensualists who dreaded his reproofs; and profligates of every description who formerly gloried in their shame, were compelled to conceal their gross depravi-

ty in the shades of night, while the gradual reformation of public morals, and consequent decency of manners among the people of Macclesfield in general, afforded a full demonstration of the beneficial influence of an evangelical Minister. Mr. Simpson was not one of those temporizers who

“ Never mention Hell to ears polite.”

His religion was not of that flexible and accommodating kind, which permits the professor to serve his own worldly views with his right hand, and his Creator with his left. Such self-deceivers as think they may share the amusements and follies of life, and be acceptable with God, are indeed in a most dangerous state. They can go to Church, to the Play-house, to a Ball, a Card-party, or on a jaunt of pleasure in succession, and think themselves perfectly safe; till the death of some dear relation, or the attack of mortal disease, like the handwriting on the wall, alarms them with the conviction that all their perishable enjoyments are departing from them, and the horrors of a remorseful and irreligious mind will admit neither hope nor comfort.

There are only two monuments in this Church; one to the memory of the Founder, and the other to that of the Rev. David Simpson.

The monument of Mr. Roe is the production of that celebrated sculptor, Bacon, and was finished in 1784. It is of marble, and consists of the figure of the genius of the useful arts, who holds a medallion of Mr. Roe in one hand and in the other the model of a wheel. The three compartments below, contain a

representation of the first Silk-mill erected in Macclesfield, the Smelting-house, and a north-east view of Christ's Church.

The following inscription on a marble tablet, though highly encomiastic, even to a degree of extravagance, is interesting, as it contains some biographical facts of an ingenious and successful manufacturer, whose public spirit undoubtedly contributed to the prosperity of Macclesfield.

“Whoever thou art,
Whom a curiosity to search into the Monuments of the
Dead,
Or an Ambition to emulate their living Virtues,
Has brought hither;
Receive the Gratification of either Object, in the
Example of
CHARLES ROE, ESQ.

“A Gentleman, who, with a slender Portion on his Entrance into Business, carried on the Button and Twist Manufacture in this Town, with the most active Industry, Ingenuity, and Integrity; and by an happy Versatility of Genius, at different periods of his Life, first established here, and made instrumental to the acquisition of an ample Fortune, *the Silk and Cotton Manufactories*; by which many thousands of families have been since supported. The Obstacles which Envy and Malevolence threw in his way, retarded not his Progress; enterprizing, emulous, and indefatigable, what were Difficulties to others, were Incitements to Action in him. His Mind was vast and comprehensive, formed for great Undertakings, and equal to their Accomplishment. By an instinctive kind of Knowledge, he acquired an intimate acquaintance with the *Mineral Strata* of the Earth; and was esteemed, by competent Judges, greatly to excel in *the Art of Mining*. In that Line, his Concerns were exten-

sive ; and the Land Owners, as well as Proprietors, of the valuable Mine in the *Isle of Anglesea*, are indebted to him for the Discovery.

“ It pleased the ALMIGHTY to bless his various Labours and benevolent designs.—His grateful Heart delighted to acknowledge the Mercies he received.—God was in all his Thoughts.—And actuated by the purest sentiments of genuine Devotion, which burnt steadily through his Life, and the brighter as he approached the FOUNTAIN OF LIGHT.—He dedicated to the service of his MAKER, a Part of that Increase His Bounty had bestowed ; erecting and endowing at his sole expence, the elegant structure which encloses this Monument ; —And which it is remarkable, was built from the Surface of the Ground, and completely finished Inside and Out, in so short a space of Time as seven Months,

“ When thou hast performed the Duties which brought thee hither, think on the FOUNDER OF THIS BEAUTIFUL EDIFICE. and aspire after the Virtues which enabled him to raise it.

“ He died the 3d of May, 1781, aged 67 years ; leaving a Widow and ten Children (who have erected this Monument as a Tribute to Conjugal and Filial Affection) poignantly to lament

A MOST INDULGENT HUSBAND,
A TENDER FATHER,
AND A GENERAL LOSS.”

The mural Monument erected to the Memory of Mr. Simpson, consists of a representation in Basso Relievo of the good Samaritan, below which is the following Inscription.

“ SACRED to the Memory
of the Rev. DAVID SIMPSON, M. A.
the first Minister of this Church ,
Who, after 24 Years laborious and unremitting Service,
departed this Life, March 21, 1799,
Aged 54.

As a Preacher of the Gospel, he was zealous and faithful ;

Pure and uncorrupt in his doctrine ;
 A pattern of good works in his Life ;
 A Friend to the poor and distressed ;
 A Father to the Orphan ;
 A Husband to the Widow ;
 And confining his benevolence neither to Sect or
 Persuasion,
 He was, in his Universal *Charity*,
 THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

This Monument was erected by an affectionate *People*, as a grateful acknowledgement of the benefits they had derived from his Ministry."

The Church yard is extensive, and surrounded with a low brick wall ; the situation is dry, and the soil sandy. If the tombstones in the Old Church yard, are remarkable for the roughness and imperfection of the sculpture, those in Christ's Church yard are remarkably elegant.

EPITAPHS.

Here rest the earthly Remains
 of GEORGE PEARSON, late of *Macclesfield* ;
 a Man, who,
 without inheriting from nature any superior strength
 of intellect, without possessing in the former part of his
 life, much of this world's good, and without
 having been ever acquainted with the advantages
 resulting from a Knowledge of letters,
 spent a life of nearly *Fourscore years and ten*,
 with a much more than common degree of happiness
 to himself, of usefulness to mankind,
 and of piety and devotion to his MAKER.

By perseverance and industry, he effectually secured a numerous train of descendants from those disadvantages which, in the early part of his life, he had experienced, and which a mind, less firm and collected than his own, would most sensibly have felt; and having, by a strict and uniform observance of all the laws of morality, a constant and invariable attendance both on public and private worship, and a steady and unwearied attachment to all the duties of *Religion*, been the *Patron and Father* of a respectable and increasing sect of Christians, in this Town, he died, February 23, 1807, in the 89th year of his age.

Ye who, through life's lowly vale,
Journeying on with noiseless pace,
Though no proud and pompous tale,
Shall your humble deeds retrace;
Yet your VIRTUES shall not fail,
On Heaven's tablets high to place,
Feats which more than Fame avail,
Truths which Time can ne'er efface.

“ Robert Roberts was a faithful Preacher of the Gospel more than 40 years. He died in this Town, December 22, 1799, aged 68 years.”

“ *The Trumpet shall sound, and the Dead shall be raised.*”

ANN,
The wife of the Rev. David Simpson, M. A.
Died September 16, 1774, aged 24 years.

As a Woman,
 Her form was elegant, her Manners gentle :
 As a Wife,
 She was kind, affectionate, obedient :
 As a Christian,
 She counted all Things but loss,
 For the excellency of the knowledge
 of Christ Jesus our Lord :
 And
 Deeply convinced that Professions without Practice are
 Vain,
 She denied Ungodliness and worldly Lusts,
 And lived soberly, righteously, and godly,
 In this present World.
 Reader !
 If the Prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus
 Be thy Aim,
 Go thou and do likewise.

Sacred

To the Memory of Catherine, daughter of John and Catherine Corry, of Macclesfield.—She was born in London, January 3, 1811, and died in Macclesfield, September 29, 1815.

Meek Innocent Adieu! tho' few the days,
 That thy sweet smiles repaid thy Parents' love ;
 They hope to meet—and join thee in the praise,
 Of the REDEEMER, in his Heaven above.

J. C.

There are several other monumental inscriptions in this Church yard expressive of the virtues of the dead, and the grief and affection of surviving friends.

THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This Institution was originally founded by Sir John Percival, Knight, who endowed it with ten pounds per annum, as appears by his will dated January 25th 1502. It was originally, a chantry as well as Free School, and at the time of the dissolution of Monasteries, &c. it was suppressed by Henry VIII. In 1552, it was re-endowed by King Edward VI. with sixteen acres of land, and several fields, meadows, and houses, in and near the city of Chester. Hence instead of being named after the original founder, it is called the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, in the preamble of an Act of Parliament obtained in the year 1774, of which the following is an extract.—“Whereas his Majesty King Edward the Sixth, by his Letters Patent, bearing date the twenty-fifth day of April, in the sixth year of his reign, upon the petition as well of the Inhabitants of Macclesfield, in the County of Chester, as of many other of his subjects of the whole neighbouring County, to him presented, for a Grammar School to be erected and established in Macclesfield, within the Parish of Prestbury, in the County aforesaid, for the Institution and Instruction of *Children and Youth*, did, of his special grace, will, grant, and ordain, for him and his heirs, that thenceforth there should be One Grammar School in Macclesfield aforesaid, which should be called the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, for the Education, Institution, and Instruction of Children and Youth in the Grammar, to continue for all future times to come; and his said Majesty did

erect, create, ordain, and found the same School, to be continued for ever, under one Master or Tutor, and one Sub-tutor or Usher: and that his intention aforesaid might take better effect, and that the lands, tenements, rents, revenues, and other profits to be granted, assigned, and appointed, for the maintenance of the said School, might be the better governed for the continuance of the same, his said Majesty did will, grant and ordain, that thenceforth there should be within the Vill of Macclesfield, and Parish of Prestbury aforesaid, fourteen of the more discreet and honest Inhabitants of the same Vill and Parish, which should be for the time being, and should be called Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods, of the said Schools."

The ancient School-house which was inconveniently situated, and in great decay, was sold by the Governors of the Institution, in the year 1750, and a large mansion and other buildings situated in Back-street, were purchased, and by additions and improvements converted into a commodious School-house. In 1774, when the act was obtained, the rents of the lands and houses belonging to the Institution, amounted to the yearly income of one hundred and seventy pounds and upwards, and upon the expiration of certain leases, would produce an annual income of six hundred pounds.

In 1774, the place of Head Master was vacant by the death of the late Master, and Thomas Jennings, Clerk, was Usher. The Governors were Sir William Meredith, Baronet; Peter Legh, Charles Legh, John Glegg, Henshaw Thunicroft, William Clowes,

Esquires; the Rev. Henry Otley Wright, the Rev. Peter Mayers, Clerks; Samuel Glover, Henry Lankford, William Norton, Charles Roe, and John Stonehewer, Gentlemen.

By the Act obtained in 1774, the Governors were empowered to appoint Masters, and that the Institution might be of more general utility, the scholars were to be instructed in many other useful branches of knowledge as well as classical learning. The Act expressly declares "that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governors of the said School, for the time being, or the major part of them, to elect, nominate, and appoint such and so many person or persons to be Master or Masters, to teach and instruct the children and youth who shall be educated at the said School, *not only* in Grammar and Classical Learning, but also in Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Navigation, Mathematics, the modern Languages, and *in such and so many* branches of Literature and Education, as shall from time to time, in the judgment of the said Governors, or the major part of them, be proper and necessary, to render the said foundation of the most general use and benefit, and as the state of the revenues of the said School will admit; so that nevertheless there shall be always one Head Master, and one Usher, at least, for teaching and instructing the children and youth in Grammar and Classical Learning, at the said School."

According to this Act, the salary of the Head Master is not to be less than one hundred pounds per annum, clear of all deductions, besides the use of the

School-house ; and the salary of the Usher is not to be less than forty pounds a year. The Governors are empowered to remove or displace the Masters, for immorality, neglect of duty, incapacity, or any other just or reasonable cause. No Master or Masters appointed by virtue of this Act, shall accept or take any stipend or payment, from parents, guardians, or other persons, who have the care of the children or youth, who shall be educated at this School, for teaching and instructing the said children and youth, in the respective branches of literature and education, which shall there be taught, *“ other than such stipend, or other payment, for, or in respect of the children and youth there taught, as the said Governors, or the major part of them, shall from time to time, by writing under their hands, authorize him or them respectively to receive or take.”*

The Governors are also authorized, with the advice of the Bishop of Chester, to make statutes and ordinances relating to the Head Master, Usher, and Scholars, and the additional Masters to be appointed in pursuance of this Act. They are also empowered to increase the Head Master and Usher's salaries; and indeed it may be truly asserted, that the regulation of this Institution is completely under their control.

That there has been a great deviation from the original plan of the beneficent founders, is certain. When the School was endowed, the English Language was not considered as worthy to constitute any part of a liberal or classical education, for it was then in a state of comparative barbarism. A Grammar School,

was then and still continues to be considered as a place appropriated to *classical* education. But another great object of the founders of this and similar establishments, was to impart instruction to “children and youth” *gratuitously*. The very designation of *Free Grammar School* implies gratuitous instruction. But this is not the case in Macclesfield. The Governors it seems, have thought proper to convert the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, into a Boarding School, where “*children and youth*” are undoubtedly well instructed, and fed too, at a regular and stipulated price, according to the following statement of the present Head Master.

“MACCLESFIELD SCHOOL.”

“The first object of Macclesfield School is classical literature, which comprehends the English, Latin, and Greek languages. The higher forms are likewise instructed in the Elements of Algebra, and Euclid; the lower and middle classes, in Writing, Arithmetic, and the use of the Globes, modern and ancient Geography, &c. The French language is introduced to a certain extent, in every department of the School; and is further substituted in the place of Greek, for the benefit of those pupils who are not intended for College or Professions. A suitable collection of English Authors is appropriated to each class, and the greatest attention is paid to correct elocution, and classical composition.

“The foundation of the School being of considerable importance, the Head-Master wishes to establish, *under the sanction of the Governors*, a comprehen-

sive plan of liberal education, and hopes the above brief sketch of it will convey to the parents and guardians of his pupils, a general idea of what is professed to be taught at Macclesfield.

D. DAVIES.

“TERMS.”

“Entrance, Five Guineas.

Board and Education,—

in the lower Forms, Thirty-five Guineas a year;

in the higher Forms, Forty Guineas a year.

A single Bed (if required) Four Guineas a year.

“EXTRA CHARGES.”

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Dancing, | } One Guinea | { a Quarter. |
| Fencing, | | |
| Drawing, | | |

a Quarter.

a Quarter.

a Quarter.

*** Three Months' Notice is expected before the removal of any young Gentleman.”

From this view of facts, it must be evident, that the Institution denominated the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, in Macclesfield, has in this age of innovation, been changed into a modern Seminary for the education of “*young gentlemen*,” consequently, the children of indigent people, for whom both the first founder Sir John Percival, and the Royal renovator King Edward, intended it, are excluded; while the Head Master receives a liberal salary, sits rent-free, and is paid at least three thousand pounds annually, by the parents and guardians of his numerous boarders. Dr. Davies is indeed acknowledged by competent judges to be an excellent classical scholar, and he is no doubt, duly authorized

to keep his Boarding School, "*by writings under the hands*" of the present Governors, according to the express tenor of the Act of Parliament. To them, therefore, is the censure imputable, if they have indeed deviated so far from the philanthropic plan of the pious founder, as to appropriate the funds of this Institution, to the instruction of young gentlemen, whose parents could afford to pay for their education, while many docile and intelligent boys in the humble walks of life, and for whom this establishment was originally intended, remains untaught, unnoticed, and without that literary aid which might have made them ornaments to Macclesfield, to England, and to human nature.

It appears by the following document, that Dr. Davies was required by the Governors of the Free Grammar School of Macclesfield, to describe the real state of that Institution, and suggest improvements.

"In compliance," says he, "with the request of the Trustees at their last meeting, I take the liberty of submitting to their consideration, what occurs to me respecting the School.

"In the first place, I am of opinion, that the Act of Parliament appropriates the *whole* of its revenues to the support of the Grammar School, *exclusively* of every other, and that every Master receiving a salary from the foundation, is to co-operate with the Head Master, in the instruction of the youth admitted into the School. The principal motive for obtaining the Act, was to render the education in the Grammar School more complete, nor does it appear, that any

application was made to Parliament, for the purpose of alienating a single farthing of its revenues.

“The School at present consists of *seventy-two boarders*, and *nineteen* day-scholars, who are instructed according to the plan of education, which I have taken the liberty of enclosing. The object of it is to unite the advantages of private and public tuition, by adding to Classical Literature, English, Figures, French, and Writing. In most of the public Schools, these branches of education are optional; in Macclesfield, they form a part of the system, according to the *letter and spirit* of the Act, and are under the superintendence of the Head Master.

“The stipend of the Head Master is £150 per annum, with a house subject to taxes; of the second Master £80; of the French Master £50; in all amounts to £250 per annum.

“The Head Master adds to the Second Master’s salary £21; to two classical Ushers, independently of board and lodging, sixty guineas a year each; addition to the French Master’s salary £50; Writing Master’s, exclusively of board and lodging, £63; amounting to £260.

“The day scholars are charged one guinea a year for French, and two guineas and a half for Writing and Accounts. * * * * *

* *

“In the Grammar School at Birmingham there are appointed by the Trustees, one Head Master, one second Master, two classical Ushers, one Writing Master, one Drawing Master, one Librarian, seven

exhibitions, and *eight inferior Schools* in various parts of the town, at £15. each per annum.

“ My opinion is, that the interests of Macclesfield School, and of the Parish of Prestbury, cannot be better promoted, than by adopting the plan pursued at Birmingham ; that the first object is, the improvement of the school buildings, the second, the appointment of classical Ushers, &c. *without expence to the Head Master* ; the third, the founding of exhibitions ; and if any surplus should afterwards remain, that an Act be obtained, to legalize the appropriation of it to inferior Schools.

“ With respect to the school buildings, if the Trustees should wish to render them commodious, for the reception of a greater number of pupils, the first requisites are, *new schools* and new lodging rooms, improvement of the play ground, detached rooms for invalids, a room for the *young gentlemen* to be washed and combed in, accommodations for the classical assistants, and the appointment of some person to inspect occasionally the repairs and premises.”

Such is the perspicuous view of the state of Macclesfield School presented by Dr. Davies, who has freely given his opinion, but it can hardly be called unbiassed. It is sufficiently clear to an impartial mind, that the Act of Parliament *does not* “ appropriate the whole of its revenues to the support of the *Grammar School, exclusively of every other,*” for the Act expressly *determines*, that *children and youth* shall be educated at the said School, not only in Grammar and classical learning, but also in Writing, Arithme-

tic, Geography, Navigation, Mathematics, the Modern Languages, *and in such and so many branches of literature and education, as shall from time to time, in the judgment of the said Governors, or the major part of them, be thought proper and necessary,* TO RENDER THE SAID FOUNDATION OF THE MOST GENERAL USE AND BENEFIT, AND AS THE REVENUES OF THE SAID SCHOOL WILL ADMIT."

This extract cannot be misunderstood ; and it decisively empowers the Governors of the School, to expend part of the revenues of the Institution, for the instruction of *children and youth*, in various branches of common and useful knowledge. Nothing, however, could be more natural than that the Head Master of Macclesfield Grammar School, should give his opinion in favour of a system which was productive of considerable emolument to himself. According to his own statement of the number of boarders, he receives upwards of three thousand guineas a year, for their tuition, food, and lodging ; one third of which, on a very moderate estimate, may be considered clear gain ; exclusive of two guineas and a half paid by each of the nineteen day scholars mentioned by him, for instruction in Writing and Accounts ! Who then can with propriety, call this Institution a *free* Grammar School ?

A number of *inferior Schools*, as Dr. Davies calls them, opened under proper regulations, and supported as *Free Schools* by a part of the revenues of the original Institution, would in some degree restore to the Inhabitants of Macclesfield, the advantages of that *gra-*

gratuitous instruction for their children, which it unquestionably was the benevolent intention of the founder to bestow. Indeed a glance at the list of boarders must convince any impartial man that the current of Royal *charity* and *munificence*, has been diverted out of its original channel. Edward, like a beneficent Prince, was desirous to communicate gratuitous knowledge to such classes of his countrymen as could not afford to pay for it. He knew that an indigent boy could learn Latin as soon as the son of a nobleman, and was convinced by the perusal of both sacred and profane history, that men in the lowest station had risen to eminence, by their superior attainments and merit.

The names of several gentlemen's sons who were not parishioners of Prestbury, appear in the list of boarders at Macclesfield Free Grammar School. Some of the former Pupils, are now actually Governors of this Institution; perhaps they would consider it a degradation of *Alma Mater* to employ her in the instruction of indigent "*children and youth*," gratuitously, especially when they recollect that their parents paid very highly for their learning. A few of the Trustees are well known and esteemed as men of philanthropy and beneficence, and we may consequently expect a *reform* in the management of the revenues of this *Free Grammar School*. Then shall the vestibule of this temple of elegant science and useful knowledge, be thronged by our warm hearted and ingenious youth, all eager to drink of that fountain which had so long been concealed from their view, and withheld from their thirsty lips.

MACCLESFIELD SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

“ In Faith and Hope the best may disagree,
But all mankind’s concern is Charity.”

Among the inestimable advantages obtainable from the full enjoyment of religious liberty, the Sunday-School is highly conspicuous, and conducive not only to public decency and morality, but the future worldly welfare, and it is to be hoped, even the eternal happiness of millions of rational beings, who without its fostering aid would have lived and died in a state of ignorance. Under the dispensations of that overruling Providence which governs the universe, we are indebted for this charitable Institution to the liberality of Protestantism, for in what country where Popery predominates, do Sunday-Schools flourish, or even exist? It is truly honourable to the beneficence of our contemporaries, that this excellent mode of general education, originated with a humane individual of the present age. Thirty-three years have passed away since Mr. Robert Raikes, of Gloucester, opened the first Sunday-School in that city; and by reclaiming numbers of neglected children from idleness and vice, excited the sympathy, and roused the emulation of other benevolent persons, who eagerly imitated so praiseworthy an example. The originality and novelty, as well as the manifest utility of the plan, soon rendered it popular: a degree of enthusiastic charity for poor

neglected children, was speedily communicated from one populous community to another, throughout Great Britain and Ireland; and in the year 1788, four years after the commencement of the Gloucester Sunday-School, it was ascertained by accurate computation, that no less than *two hundred and fifty thousand* boys and girls, received the benefit of a gratuitous education in the two islands, and were thus happily rescued from the miseries of ignorance, superstition, and barbarism.

MACCLESFIELD SUNDAY-SCHOOL was opened on the 1st of May, 1796; and the experience of more than twenty years, has fully proved its paramount utility over every other method invented by human ingenuity, for the dissemination of religious and moral principles, and the easy and regular acquisition of elementary knowledge in the useful arts of Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. To enter into the detail of the progress of this Institution, and its general effects on the manners and morals of the industrious inhabitants of Macclesfield, would be to indulge in a strain of encomium equally fulsome to the manly mind, and contrary to the independent principles of the writer; but historical veracity requires the following brief record of an establishment, which will doubtless be supported with all the energy and ardour which Christian philanthropy can alone inspire.

For some years before the Sunday-School was opened in this town, the Rev. David Simpson actively promoted the diffusion of knowledge among young per-

sons, who were employed in the Silk and Cotton manufactories, by opening several Evening Schools for their instruction. These Schools were fixed at convenient distances, in several parts of the town and neighbourhood, where teachers properly qualified attended, and were paid a small weekly sum, which was collected by the voluntary benefactions of opulent and benevolent patrons. Many unforeseen obstacles impeded the complete success of this mode of instruction, in consequence of which, the more general expedient of gratuitous tuition on Sunday, was adopted instead of the Evening Schools. The personal exertions of Mr. Simpson, most essentially contributed to the success of this establishment. His ready, powerful, and commanding eloquence, was poured forth like a flowing stream, in behalf of the juvenile and susceptible mind; and the rich and the poor were unanimous in their approbation of so cheap and effectual a method of imparting useful knowledge not only without impediment to the pursuits of the industrious, but actually affording a most pleasing and profitable recreation to the teachers and their pupils. The Institution has been conducted with admirable order, economy, and efficiency; in the course of twenty years, at least ten thousand young persons have been carefully instructed in the true principles of the Christian Religion, that Religion which "*maketh wise unto salvation*;" and they have also been taught those elements of human knowledge, most conducive to their own welfare, and their usefulness in society. Some parents

who were originally instructed in the Macclesfield Sunday-School, now teach their own children and the children of their neighbours, in that Seminary.

The present edifice appropriated to the gratuitous instruction of indigent children and youth, is an ornament to the town of Macclesfield. It is situated in Roe-street, about two hundred yards from the New Church; it is four stories high, very lofty, built in a dry airy situation, and was erected in the year 1813, at the expence of £5,639. 13s. 1d. As a memorable proof of the generous benevolence of the teachers, and the genuine gratitude of the scholars, it deserves to be recorded, that the sum of £1,676. 15s. 9½d. was raised by weekly collections made in the School, in aid of the fund, requisite for the expenditure of erecting this stately edifice.

According to the report of the state of Macclesfield Sunday-School, dated May 12, 1797, it appears that 304 boys, and 278 girls, were admitted as pupils. The expences of the Institution for the past year, amounted to £64. 15s. 3d. Ten years afterwards, or May 12, 1807, the number of children amounted to 1,642; of whom 655 were boys, and 987 girls. The expenditure of the establishment during the year was £130. 15s. 7d. The eighteenth report from March 1, 1814, to June 1, 1815, stated the number of children instructed in this School at 2,451; of whom 1,127 were boys, and 1,324 girls. The expenditure for books, during fifteen months, was £68. 6s. 11d; for paper, printing, &c. £35. 2s. 0d; and for quills and ink, £5. 13s. 0d; thus affording a demonstration, that the Institution steadily

advanced in the great work of a more general diffusion of knowledge. The whole expences of the school amounted to £350. 0s. 4d. The precision with which these particulars are given, may appear tedious to that reader, if such a being can exist, who is uninterested in the education and rational happiness of industrious indigence ; but they will be read with delight by the philanthropist, who justly considers the communication of good to others, as a performance of that charity, or brotherly love, enjoined by Christ himself.

It is not the intention of the writer to endeavour to revive that anti-social, nay, that anti-christian ill-will, which fomented by pride, or some worse agent, agitated the minds of many estimable men of this town, in the spring of 1813, when the zeal of a few individuals for a particular sect, was vainly and unsuccessfully exerted in opposition to popular sentiment. All men, and especially men who are in the habit of boasting so loudly of their peculiar immunities as Englishmen, have an undoubted right to judge for themselves ; but the advocates for the restriction of Sunday scholars to implicit submission to the established Church, assumed a dogmatism on this occasion, quite ungenial to the meekness of genuine Charity ; and the consequence was a schism, as far as respected the internal government of the Macclesfield Sunday School. Hence the Institution was, according to its proper destination, freely opened to the children of parents of every Christian sect ; while another Sunday School was erected for the exclusive accommodation of the children of churchmen.

When the National and Sunday School in Duke-street was opened, a number of children were sent by their parents and friends to that new Institution, which in addition to tuition on the Sabbath Day, also imparted daily and gratuitous instruction to the pupils. The National School is, it appears, very useful in the speedy instruction of children, especially in the simple elements of knowledge. As such, it is certainly an important acquisition of moral strength to the community of Macclesfield. Long, then, may it flourish! and may no other rivalry henceforth exist between it and the Macclesfield Sunday School, but a competition which shall most effectually promote the great work of mental improvement among our young people!

Since the National School opened its doors, there has been a diminution in the number of children taught in the original Sunday School, as appears by the nineteenth Report of the latter Institution, dated June 1, 1816. At that time the number of boys amounted to 976, and of girls to 1,176. Total, 2152, or 299 less than that of the antecedent year. The expenditure amounted to £228. 18s. 4d.

From the foregoing brief history of Macclesfield Sunday School, it is evident that it now affords gratuitous instruction to upwards of *two thousand children*, who are educated by *two hundred teachers*, whose reward is the blissful consciousness of their performing a great civic duty. This excellent Institution is patronized by two Princes, whose encomium is emphatically recorded in the following extract from the seventeenth

report. “ Our venerable and beloved Sovereign, is well known to have declared, in language highly beaming a Christian King, and the father of his people, that ‘ *he hoped he should live to see the day when every poor child in his Dominions would be able to read his Bible.*’ Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, have proved themselves the worthy sons of such a Sire, and of the high distinction of descendants of the illustrious House of Brunswick, by their attachment to the same cause, evinced by their condescending to honour this Institution with their patronage and support.”

To render the Macclesfield Sunday-School more complete in the great work of public edification, the large upper room of the edifice is appropriated to public worship. There a Chaplain regularly delivers sermons and lectures, to a crowded auditory ; his stipend is collected quarterly, without the slightest interference with the funds of the Charity-School itself ; and thus, both children and adults may receive the best religious and moral instruction. Who can fairly decry such an Institution. Such an accession of Christian knowledge, which to use the energetic idea of Cowper,

“ Softens human rock-work into men.”

To this beneficial establishment our best wishes, and when requisite, our prompt pecuniary aid, is due ; and to its permanent duration, that, *esto perpetua*, “ be thou perpetual,” so frequently misapplied by political priests, is properly applicable.



POPULATION

OF

NORTHWICH HUNDRED

In the Year 1811.

| HUNDREDS. | Parish, Township, or, Extra-Parochi- al Place. | Inhabited. | HOUSES. | | | OCCUPATIONS. | | | PERSONS. | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------|---|------------|--------------|--|--|--|----------|----------|---------------------|
| | | | By how many Fa- milies Oc- cupied. | Buildings. | Uninhabited. | Families chiefly employ- ed in Agricul- ture. | Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, or Handicraft. | All other Families not com- prized in the 2 pre- ceding classes. | Males. | Females. | Total of Persons |
| NORTHWICH. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Astbury..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buglawton..... | Township | 114 | 114 | 0 | 4 | 79 | 35 | 0 | 283 | 301 | 584 |
| Congleton..... | Township | 944 | 986 | 5 | 30 | 158 | 750 | 78 | 2,023 | 2,593 | 4,616 |
| Davenport..... | Township | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 41 | 48 | 89 |
| Hulme Watfield..... | Township | 15 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 61 | 57 | 118 |
| Moreton Alumlow..... | Township | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 73 | 67 | 140 |
| Newbold Astbury..... | Township | 106 | 116 | 0 | 2 | 77 | 30 | 9 | 292 | 304 | 596 |
| Odd Rode..... | Township | 183 | 184 | 1 | 2 | 93 | 73 | 18 | 494 | 509 | 1,003 |
| Radnor..... | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Smallwood..... | Township | 86 | 87 | 0 | 2 | 60 | 11 | 16 | 257 | 239 | 496 |
| Sommerford..... | Township | 18 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 62 | 52 | 114 |
| BRERETON with ? SMITHWICK } | Parish | 103 | 106 | 0 | 2 | 101 | 5 | 0 | 303 | 284 | 587 |
| GREAT BUDWORTH. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allostock..... | Township | 75 | 79 | 0 | 0 | 71 | 8 | 0 | 240 | 222 | 462 |
| Birches..... | Township | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Hulse..... | Township | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 21 | 21 | 42 |
| Lack Dennis..... | Township | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 21 | 50 |
| Loslock Gramam..... | Township | 82 | 83 | 0 | 3 | 42 | 15 | 26 | 226 | 227 | 453 |
| Northwich..... | Township | 305 | 312 | 2 | 17 | 14 | 181 | 117 | 650 | 732 | 1,382 |
| Peover Nether..... | Township | 38 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 14 | 4 | 118 | 120 | 238 |
| Witton with Twambrook..... | Township | 416 | 442 | 1 | 21 | 54 | 313 | 75 | 983 | 983 | 1,966 |
| CHURCH LAWTON..... | Parish | 83 | 90 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 67 | 4 | 242 | 246 | 488 |
| DAVENHAM. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bostock..... | Township | 32 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 3 | 1 | 98 | 109 | 207 |
| Davenham..... | Township | 73 | 74 | 0 | 3 | 42 | 30 | 2 | 161 | 156 | 317 |
| Eaton..... | Township | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Leftwich..... | Township | 205 | 205 | 1 | 3 | 77 | 61 | 67 | 518 | 461 | 979 |
| Moulton..... | Township | 21 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 15 | 2 | 85 | 102 | 187 |
| Newall Township..... | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Rudheath..... | Township | 57 | 57 | 1 | 1 | 53 | 4 | 0 | 145 | 158 | 303 |
| Shipbrook..... | Township | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 44 | 40 | 84 |
| Shurlach..... | Township | 9 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 29 | 57 |
| Stanthorne..... | Township | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 0 | 68 | 66 | 134 |
| Wharton..... | Township | 159 | 167 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 144 | 8 | 449 | 439 | 888 |
| Whatecroft..... | Township | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 38 | 71 |
| MIDDLEWICH. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Byley with } Yatehouse } | Township | 21 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 62 | 73 | 135 |
| Clive..... | Township | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 64 | 118 |
| Croxton..... | Township | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 26 | 29 | 55 |
| Kinderton with ? Hulme } | Township | 89 | 89 | 0 | 6 | 31 | 21 | 37 | 212 | 237 | 449 |
| Middlewich..... | Township | 279 | 285 | 0 | 21 | 20 | 228 | 37 | 551 | 681 | 1,232 |
| Minshall Vernon..... | Township | 64 | 66 | 0 | 1 | 63 | 3 | 0 | 125 | 130 | 255 |
| Moorebarrow } with Parine } | Township | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 15 | 27 |
| Newton..... | Township | 268 | 287 | 2 | 14 | 41 | 106 | 140 | 585 | 616 | 1,201 |
| Occlestone..... | Township | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 47 | 86 |
| Ravenscroft..... | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Sproston..... | Township | 21 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 11 | 1 | 74 | 70 | 144 |
| Stublach..... | Township | 11 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 29 | 54 |
| Sutton..... | Township | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 28 |
| Wimboldsley..... | Township | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 62 | 67 | 129 |
| (a) SANDBACH. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arclid..... | Township | 14 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 40 | 42 | 82 |
| Blackden..... | Township | 26 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 2 | 3 | 73 | 79 | 152 |
| Bradwell..... | Township | 42 | 42 | 0 | 1 | 39 | 2 | 1 | 117 | 141 | 258 |
| Church Hulme..... | Township | 70 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 46 | 17 | 174 | 172 | 346 |
| Cotton..... | Township | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 38 | 43 | 81 |
| Cranage..... | Township | 78 | 81 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 64 | 5 | 188 | 199 | 387 |
| Goostrey with } Barnshaw } | Township | 47 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 24 | 5 | 133 | 128 | 261 |
| Leese..... | Township | 19 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 12 | 0 | 63 | 63 | 126 |
| Sandbach..... | Township | 495 | 521 | 14 | 20 | 117 | 368 | 36 | 1,146 | 1,165 | 2,311 |
| Tremlow..... | Township | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 78 | 74 | 152 |
| Wheelock..... | Township | 64 | 68 | 0 | 4 | 25 | 42 | 1 | 160 | 169 | 329 |
| SWETTENHAM. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kermincham..... | Township | 25 | 25 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 89 | 84 | 173 |
| Swettenham..... | Township | 35 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 116 | 111 | 227 |
| WARMINGHAM. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elton..... | Township | 54 | 70 | 1 | 0 | 61 | 9 | 0 | 179 | 198 | 377 |
| Moston..... | Township | 26 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 13 | 0 | 83 | 79 | 162 |
| Tetton..... | Township | 29 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 14 | 0 | 80 | 77 | 157 |
| Warmingham..... | Township | 55 | 57 | 2 | 1 | 42 | 12 | 3 | 165 | 180 | 345 |
| | | 5,160 | 5,389 | 33 | 171 | 1,855 | 2,774 | 730 | 12,815 | 13,726 | 26,541 |

NOTE. (a) Part of Sandbach Parish is in Nantwich Hundred.

THE
HISTORY
OF
CONGLETON.

CHAPTER I.

Antiquity of the Town—The Manor of Congleton conferred on Niggellus by Hugh Lupus—Charter granted to the Burgesses of Congleton, at the commencement of the fourteenth century—Market granted by Edward the First—Inundation of the Dane in 1451—The Corporation authorized by a grant of Henry the Sixth, to cut a new course for the River, and remove the King's Mills—Mandate of Henry the Eighth in 1524, exempting the Freemen of Congleton from appearing at other Courts.—Two hundred individuals sworn in Freemen of Congleton in 1584—Regulations for the preservation of peace, order, and decency in the Town—Inns and Alehouses in 1584—Sports and Pastimes of the Inhabitants of Congleton—Camden's Description of the Town in the seventeenth century—Charter granted by James the First, in 1625.

AT the time of the general survey of England, soon after the Conquest, Congleton was but an inconsiderable Village, for in the record in Domesday Book, we are informed, that “Hugo de Mara holds Cogletone, Godwin held it; there is one hide of land liable to pay taxes. The whole land is four carucates; of which, two are occupied by two villans, or slaves; and four bordars, or cottagers. There is a wood one league

long and one broad ; and there are two enclosed pastures. The whole is now worth four shillings." Such was the state of Congleton and its environs, about the year 1066 or 1067.

Camden states that William the Conqueror first gave Cheshire to Gerbud, a nobleman of Flanders ; and he afterwards conferred it upon Hugh Lupus his nephew, under the greatest and most honourable tenure that ever was granted to a subject. William gave him the whole County, to hold to him and his heirs, as freely *per gladium*, or by the sword, as the King held the crown of England." An ancient manuscript dated 1400, contains the pedigree and descendants of Hugh Lupus, with notes and additions, illustrative of the origin of their power to grant Charters, and how their property came first to the Duke of Lancaster, and finally to the Crown. From this record it appears that Hugh Lupus, first Earl of Chester, died in the year 1102. His successors were Richard, the second Earl ; Randolph, the third ; Randolph, the fourth ; who died in the year 1154, Hugh Bohun, the fifth ; Randle, the sixth ; and John Scotus, the seventh ; and last Earl of that Line. On the death of John Scotus, King Henry the Third, said this Earldom should not be divided among distaffs, so he bestowed it upon his son Edward, afterwards Edward the First ; but honourably gave other possessions in lieu of the Palatinate, to the Aunts of the said John Scotus, who were now his heirs.

It appears that Hugh Lupus, like his kinsman and sovereign William, was very liberal of the property

of others; and when the Conqueror deprived the native English or Norman proprietors of their possessions in Cheshire, and bestowed them on his warlike cousin and follower, Hugh, in imitation of this princely munificence, gave the Barony of Halton in Cheshire, to his kinsman Nigellus, and made him Constable of Chester, and his Marshall by Knight's service, to head his armies, first in marching, last in returning. This Barony contained nine Knight's fees and three fourths, including the Manor of Congleton, and Nigellus according to his tenure, enjoyed many powers and immunities. Among others, it was specified, that if any of the tenants of Nigellus had committed theft, or any other wicked deed, such as manslaughter, the Bailiffs of the said Nigellus should lawfully take and lead such malefactor from the fee of his Lordship of Halton, and present him three Court Days at Chester; and at the third Court, if no man spoke against him, they should let him go free. This grant was confirmed in the time of King Edward the First, to Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, then Lord of Halton, Constable of Chester; and the sixth in descent from Nigellus. Henry Lacy, who granted the first Charter to Congleton, was buried in St. Paul's, London, A. D. 1310.

A TRANSLATION OF HENRY LACY'S CHARTER.

“KNOW all men present and to come, that we, Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and Constable of Chester, have given, granted, and by this our present Charter, have confirmed, for us and our heirs, to our free Burghesses of Congleton, that the said Town may be a free

Borough, and that the Burgesses of the same Borough may have at their pleasure for ever, a Guild-Merchant with all liberties and free customs to such a Guild appertaining. They also may have Household and Haybold, and Common of Pasture, for all the Beasts and Cattle every where within our Territory of Congleton, with unlimited fuel, without the deliverance of any one on our part when they shall need; as of Turves and Peats, to be digged, dried, and taken any where in the Turbury of Congleton. And that they shall be quit of Pannage, how many Hogs soever they shall have within the bounds of Congleton. And that by virtue of a Charter of grant and confirmation of the liberties of our Boroughs, which we have from our Sovereign Lord the King, they are acquitted for ever throughout all places in Cheshire, as well by land as by water, under the defence and protection of us and our heirs, with all their Merchandises from Toll, Stallage, Passage, Pavage (*a*), Pontage (*b*), Lastage (*c*), and Murrage, (*d*); and from all other impeachments which touch Merchandises, except reasonable

NOTES. (*a*) "Pavage" Money demanded for breaking the soil or pavement to drive posts into the ground, for erecting stalls more firmly. This seems to be the same as Picage mentioned in other Charters.

(*b*) "Pontage" Money demanded for leave to pass over a bridge.

(*c*) "Lastage" Toll paid for goods sold by the Last, though placed in the open Street or Fair, as unpacked Herrings, Hides, Wool, Corn, Rape Seed, Osmonds, or Iron Stone.

(*d*) "Murrage" Money demanded for passing through the gates of a Walled City or Place. The presence for collecting this is for building and repairing the Walls. Pontage and Pavage demanded for the like reason.

amends, if they commit trespass. And that they may not be impleaded nor adjudged out of their own proper Borough, of any Plea concerning their Lands and Tenements, nor of any Plea which sounds as a transgression committed within the limits of the said Town. And if any one of them in our mercy shall fall by default, it may not exceed twelve pence; and after judgment a reasonable amercement according to the quantity of the offence. And that they shall grind their grist at our Mill of Congleton, at the twentieth grain, while the Mill shall be sufficient. And that our Burgesses aforesaid may choose for themselves by themselves, a Mayor and Catchpole, and Ale-taster; and shall present them at the appearance of our great Court there, upon Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michael; and our Bailiffs shall take their Oath for their faithful service to the Lord and Commonalty. Also we grant for us, our heirs, and assigns, that the aforesaid Burgesses, their heirs, and assigns, may have their Burgages, and Lands pertaining to their Burgages, and also the Lands which within the aforesaid Lordship may reasonably be approved or rented by Oath of the aforesaid Burgesses, without hurt of their liberty, or their Common aforesaid; and hold them peaceably and quietly for ever; to wit, every Burgage, sixpence yearly, and for every acre of Land, twelve pence, at the accustomed rent days. And that they make to our Court three appearances yearly at days certain. Yet a Writ of Right issuing in the said Court, they shall do suit, from fortnight to fortnight, for all other manner of services and demands. And

that their Burgages and Lands aforesaid, they may lawfully sell, give, mortgage, or alienate as they please, except to religious persons. And that if the Bailiffs of the Town shall take any Felon, the Felony being known, they may lawfully behead him, and the Felony being unknown, they shall hold him (if they will) in the Stocks for three days, and afterwards send him to our Castle of Halton, with the Chattels found with him, saving to them the Pelf which belongs to the Serjeants. And we Henry, and our heirs, all the aforesaid Liberties, Burgages, Lands, and Tenements, with all their Appurtenances and Free Usages of the said Town, to the aforesaid Burgesses, their heirs and assigns, against all people will warrant, acquit, and for ever defend. In witness whereof, to this present Charter our Seal we have put, these being witnesses; John Deyville, William le Vavasour, Robert of Stockport, Gefferey of Chedle, Knights; Richard of Rode, Gralam of Tideby, Bertram of Saxeby, Vincent of Wombivelle, Gervase a Clergyman, and others."

This Charter is not dated, but it was undoubtedly granted about the commencement of the fourteenth Century. Since that period, Congleton has gradually increased in extent and population; except when that dreadful visitation of the Plague nearly depopulated the Town, in the year 1641. The houses of Congleton were for ages made of wood and plaster, and were low and thatched; but the modern town is well built of brick, and contains several handsome mansions, particularly those in West-street. The Market, which is on Saturday, was granted by Edward the First to

Henry Lacy in the year 1282, with a fair for three days, at the festival of the Holy Trinity. This fair has been discontinued.

The Town of Congleton is built partly on a plain near the bank of the Dane, and partly upon gentle eminences, which rise gradually from the verge of the river. In 1451, a sudden inundation of the Dane overflowed part of Mill-street, and did great damage ; in consequence of which, the Corporation petitioned Henry the Sixth to empower them to cut a new course for the River, which was granted. The King's Mills were at the same time granted in fee-farm to the Corporation, for the yearly rent of £1. 6s. 8d. with permission to remove them to where they now stand. This grant is dated June 29, 1451 ; and on the 15th of November in the same year, the King granted an Injunction, that no other Mill should be erected in the Lordship of Congleton.

The next-royal grant to the Corporation of Congleton, is that of Henry the Eighth, of which the following is a copy.

INJUNCTION OR MANDATE BY HENRY THE EIGHTH, FOR
EXEMPTING THE FREEMEN OF CONGLETON FROM AP-
PEARING AT OTHER COURTS. JUNE 15TH. 1524.

“ HENRY the Eighth, by the Grace of God King of England and of France, defender of the faith, and Lord of Ireland, to our trusty and well beloved the Justices of Assize, and to all other Officers of Chester, and to every of them greeting. Whereas grievous complaint is made unto us on the behalf of our Mayor and Com-

monalty of our Town of Congleton, Parcel of our Duchy of Lancaster, in our County of Chester, how that upon plaints and other suggestions made before you at Chester, against divers of our said Inhabitants of Congleton aforesaid, whereupon the Officers of Chester aforesaid distrained them of Congleton, and in other Places within the liberty of our said Duchy, to appear as well at Chester, as at County Eyers, Sherifftowns, and other Courts within the liberty of Chester, by our Progenitors to them made, and by us confirmed, and against their ancient customs there out of time used, to the great oppression and unquietness of our said Tenants and Inhabitants of our said Town of Congleton, and in breach of the liberties of our said Duchy. We, not willing their ancient good customs ne the liberty of our said Duchy to be usurped and broken, will and desire you, and nathelesse charge you, that from henceforth in no wise ye do distrain any of our said Tenants and Inhabitants of our said Town or Lordship of Congleton, within the liberty of our said Duchy, to appear at Chester; or at any of your County Eyers, Hundreds, Sherifftowns, or Courts, for any manner of cause contrary to their said Charter, Franchises, and ancient Customs aforesaid. Not failing thus to do as ye tender our pleasure. Given at our Palace of Westminster, under our Seal of our said Duchy, the 15th Day of June, in the 16th year of our Reign, i. e. June 15th, 1524. The above is English, the enrollment in Latin."

ENDORSED ON THE BACK.

Enrolled before Ranulph Brereton, Knight. &c. &c.

The Burgesses of Congleton have on all proper occasions availed themselves of the advantages derivable from the peculiar privileges conferred on them by royal and noble munificence. A remarkable, and it may be said an important instance of this occurred in 1564, and is recorded in the following document.

MEMORANDUM THAT FREEMEN OF CONGLETON ARE TOLL-FREE AT CHESTER.

Determined at Chester, May 19th, 1564.

“MEMORANDUM, that the nineteenth day of May, in the sixth year of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the Grace of God, of England, France, and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c. George Lowe, Burgess of Congleton, came before Sir Lawrence Smithe, Knight, Mayor of the City of Chester, and preferred certain grants and writings of purport that he should be free and clear of all Customs of Pondage, Tonnage, and Murrage, and all other duties within the City of Chester, whereupon and upon sight thereof, it was thought by the said Mayor, that the said George Lowe should be thereof free, and caused a Memorandum of the same to be entered in the Custom-Book, in the time of Hugh Rogerson and Gilbert Knowles, the Sheriffs. By me William Knight.”

From the 14th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the records of Congleton are truly interesting; they are preserved in the Corporation Books, from which some valuable extracts have been made to illustrate the History of the Town.* Under the wise administra-

* See Appendix.

tion of Elizabeth, the people of England made a steady and a rapid progress in civilization, useful arts, sciences, and whatever could promote national prosperity. Moral amelioration and intellectual attainments, were facilitated by the security effected by equitable laws ; while the precious immunities of civil and religious liberty adorned and dignified the national character.

Congleton, in common with other local communities, partook of those general blessings, and successive officers of the corporation were influenced by the most beneficent motives in their exertions to promote knowledge and virtue among the people.

At the first Court of Orders, held March 19, 1584, under the Charter of Queen Elizabeth, *two hundred* individuals were sworn in freemen ; hence the population of the town must have been one thousand or upwards.

The second Court was held on the 8th day of April, the same year, when among other regulations for the benefit of the community, it was ordered, that every householder should send his young persons to church to be instructed in the Catechism. The Mayor to have the care of poor fatherless children, to bring them up in the fear of God, and some good trade or occupation.

A stranger not to be made a freeman without a testimonial. These resolutions clearly evince the good sense and moral rectitude of the public officers of the Corporation.

The Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth empowered the Mayor and Commonalty to make bye-laws

for the regulation of all the inhabitants, and to punish all offenders by fine and imprisonment, with a proviso, that those bye-laws should not be contrary to the Statutes of the Realm. Thus authorized, we find the Corporation availing themselves of their new powers, by a stricter police; for at a Court held November 9, 1584, it was ordered, that any person keeping Inn or Alehouse, who shall suffer unlawful games, or secrete any light or suspicious persons in their houses, shall forfeit for every offence six shillings and eight pence; a considerable fine at that time. For the preservation of peace, morals, and public decency, it was ordered, that if any man's sons, servants, or apprentices, be taken by the officers in the street, or town, after *nine of the clock in the night*, it shall be lawful for the officer to put such persons in the prison, there to remain during the Mayor's pleasure. These were wholesome regulations, and doubtless operated as a proper restraint on licentiousness, at a period when the people in general were only in a state of semi-civilization.

Inns and alehouses appear to have been then the nurseries of indolence, vice, and profligacy, as they generally are even in this enlightened age. There seems to have been much precaution on the part of the Magistracy of Congleton, in granting licences; though they appear sufficiently *liberal* with respect to the *number* granted. On the 27th of December, 1585, Richard Spencer, Gentleman, Hugh Oldham, and John Smith, were licensed to keep inns, giving a bond of forty shillings, not to suffer unlawful games, nor to

receive stolen goods, nor harbour suspicious persons, nor sell any ale or beer in their houses, or without, above one penny the quart. *Forty-two* more licensed to keep alehouses, or *tippling houses*, on the same conditions. Thus no less than 47 tippling houses were licensed in one day in the Borough of Congleton, at a time when the whole population was not much more than one thousand. The Mayor and his coadjutors must have been hearty good fellows indeed, thus to countenance *tippling*, and if the quality and quantity of malt liquor sold, bore any proportion to the number of alehouses, the Freemen of Congleton must then have been the most noted tipplers living.

Among the sports and pastimes of the good Burgesses of Congleton, in the reign of James the First, they seem to have had a very remarkable predilection in favour of the Bear. James himself is well known to have been passionately fond of the royal sport of Cock-fighting, and his loyal Corporation of Congleton was no less addicted to the delightful and elegant diversisement of Bear-baiting. Their managerie contained one bear at least, and an officer waited on this surly quadruped, whom they denominated the Bearward. Several noblemen and gentlemen also kept their bear with his proper attendant, and indeed it is probable that the Burgesses of Congleton first introduced the bear into their establishment in imitation of the nobles of the land; for we are informed that among the disbursements during the Mayoralty of Mathew Moreton, in 1590, "*two shillings* were given to Sir John Hollesworth's Bearward."

It is even recorded, that in 1621, the Burgesses sold their Bible to buy a Bear! - This may seem incredible, but the story "is extant."*

Camden, in his *Britannia*, records some of the antiquities of Congleton; and as he wrote at the close of the sixteenth century, when English genius shone alike pre-eminent over that of all other European nations, in arts and arms, as well as literature, his account is entitled to attention, and its authenticity unquestionable. "The Dan or Davan," says he, "springs from the mountains which separate Cheshire from Staffordshire on the east side; and it runs without any increase to Condate, a town mentioned in Antoninus, and now corruptly named Congleton. The middle of this town is watered by the little brook Howty; the east side by the Daning-Schow; and the north by the Dan. Though, in consideration of its greatness, populousness, and commerce, it has deserved a Mayor and six Aldermen to govern it; yet it has only one Chapel in it; and that entirely of wood, unless it be the choir and a little tower. The mother church to which it belongs is Astbury, about two miles off, which is indeed a curious fabric."†

In the year 1625, King James the First granted a new Charter to the Borough of Congleton. This Charter, of which the following is an accurate abstract, may for its length and importance be termed the *Magna Charta* of the Corporation.

"Congleton has had many Franchises granted by

* See Appendix. † Camden's *Britannia*, Vol. 1, page 485.

divers Kings and Queens of England to its Inhabitants, or Officers under different names. It is to be a free Borough of itself, one Body corporate and politic, by the name of 'The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Congleton;' by that name may have and hold lands, tenements, &c. and demise the same; may implead or be impleaded, and as any other liege subjects, persons fit and capable in the law; to have one common seal to be changed at pleasure; one of the Burgesses resident within the Borough to be chosen Mayor, eight of the Burgesses to be chosen Aldermen; sixteen or less number to be chosen and called Capital Burgesses, and, with the eight Aldermen, to be of the Common Council, and to aid and assist the Mayor; which Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, assembled upon public warning, shall have power to make laws for the good of the said Borough and its Inhabitants; and to appoint fines and punishments to enforce the observation of them; the fines to be to the use of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses. Philip Oldfield to be the first Mayor, and continue till the Monday next before the feast of St. Michael, and till another be sworn into the office. The first Aldermen are to continue during life, unless displaced for any default. The Mayor and Aldermen to choose sixteen or fewer Capital Burgesses, who, like the Aldermen, are to continue during life, unless displaced by the Mayor and Common Council. The Mayor, Common Council, and Freemen, every year before the Feast of St. Michael, to choose one of the Aldermen to be Mayor, who shall take the oaths before the

last preceding Mayor, or his Deputy, or two or more Aldermen; and to continue in office one year, unless he die, or be displaced before that term. If the Mayor die or be displaced before the end of the year, the Aldermen, Capital Burgesses, and Freemen, shall choose another of the Aldermen to be Mayor for the remainder of the year; and two or more Aldermen are empowered to administer the oaths to him. If an Alderman die or be displaced, the Mayor and Common Council to choose another of the Capital Burgesses to be an Alderman. If one of the Capital Burgesses shall die or be displaced the Mayor and Common Council to choose another from among the Freemen, which Alderman and Capital Burgesses shall take the oaths before the Mayor, or his Deputy, or two or more Aldermen. A reputable man of special eminence to be chosen High Steward (*Capitalis Senescalis*) of the Borough, who may appoint a sufficient Deputy; Sir Thomas Savage to be High-Steward for life, and then his son John Savage for life, and at his decease the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, may choose some eminent man to be High-Steward during the pleasure of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses; each of these to take their oaths before the Mayor. A Town Clerk (*communis Clericus*) to be chosen by the Mayor and Common Council; and also two Serjeants at Mace, the one (called as formerly, the Catchpole) to be chosen by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses; the other to be called the Mayor's Serjeant, shall be chosen by the Mayor alone, which Mayor's Serjeant shall be keeper of the gaol; the two Serjeants shall

carry silver maces gilt before the Mayor ; the Town Clerk and Mayor's Serjeant shall take their oaths before the Mayor, and the Catchpole before the Steward ; Philip Oldfield, Mayor, and John Hobson and Edward Drakeford, Aldermen, to be the first Justices of the Peace. The first Mayor to take the oaths before Sir John Brereton, Knight, William Liverage and William Swettenham, Esquires ; and the two first Justices before the Mayor. The Mayor for the time being, and two Aldermen (chosen as above) are to be Justices in future, and to take the oaths before the preceding Mayor, or the other Aldermen, or three of them, who are authorized to administer the said oaths without further commission. The Mayor and one or both of the Justices to hold a general Sessions, and to have a Gaol within the Borough, for the safe keeping of all prisoners lawfully committed ; of this Gaol the Mayor's Serjeant is to be the keeper, having first given sufficient sureties to the Mayor for the safe keeping of it. Congleton being part of the Duchy of Lancaster, and having already three fairs yearly, and a weekly market, (*die sabbathi*) may nevertheless have a fourth fair on the Thursday before Shrovetide, and a Court of Pie-Powder. The profits of the tolls of the said fair to be received and disposed of for the use of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses. If the Mayor be sick or absent for reasonable cause, the Aldermen and Capital Burgesses may appoint another Alderman to be Deputy-Mayor, who, having first taken the oaths before the Mayor, shall have power to execute all things as if the Mayor was present. The Mayor and

Town-Clerk appointed to take recognizances of debts, and to have a seal of two pieces, the greater part to be kept by the Mayor, and the smaller by the Town-Clerk, and this seal shall be called the King's seal. Roger Drakeford shall be the first Clerk of the Recognizances during the pleasure of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses. After he is dead or displaced, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, shall choose another fit person, each of whom are to take an oath for the faithful discharge of their office before the Mayor. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, may as such have and hold lands, tenements, and other hereditaments (not held in capite, or by knight's service) to the clear yearly value of £20. Leave given to any subject to sell them such lands. All liberties, franchises, and privileges; and also all lands, tenements, &c. formerly granted to the town, or its inhabitants, or officers, though under different names, by any of the Kings and Queens of England, or by any other lawful grant by Henry Lacy, or any Earl of Chester, are hereby confirmed. To pay the same fee-farm rents and services as used to be paid. The Mayor, &c. to use and enjoy all franchises, &c. without the hinderance of the King, his officers, or servants. And to have these letters-patent under the great seal, without fine or fee to the use of the King. That though no express mention of the true yearly value of the premises, or of other gifts and grants, has been made in these presents, that shall be no objection to their validity; nor shall any other statute, act, cause, matter, or thing whatsoever."

From the charters and immunities so munificently conferred on the Corporation of Congleton by successive sovereigns, it might be supposed that this community was populous and flourishing; but the illiberal principle of the exclusion of strangers, prevented the prosperity of the Borough at that period; and has, in fact operated against the welfare of this Borough in common with most others, to the present time. In Liverpool, indeed, and a few other Boroughs, persons from other communities and nations, have been permitted to pursue their trades without molestation; and the consequence has been a rapid increase of population, and a consequent importance in the state which no Charter could confer. There seems to have been a remarkable diminution in the population of Congleton a few years prior to that in which James the First granted its *Magna Charter* to the Borough; for on the 28th day of September, 1618, only *seventy eight* Freemen of the Town and Lordship were called over in the Town-Hall, previously to the election of Officers for the ensuing year; and we are informed by the records of the Corporation, that on the 19th of March, 1584, two hundred Freemen were sworn in. Hence, according to the common statistical computation of five persons to a family, the population had diminished in about 34 years, from 1000 to 390 persons.

But inauspicious as this view of Congleton may appear, in the reign of James the First, it was still farther reduced by the calamitous visitation of the Plague, in the reign of his unhappy son and successor Charles the

First. London, that may justly be charged with communicating every species of moral taint and corruption to the provincial towns and the kingdom in general; London, that was so frequently visited with the pestilence and the sword for its abominable criminality, had spread its foul pestilence through several counties in 1637, and the people of Congleton, alarmed at the approach of this mortal disease, adopted every measure of precaution to prevent the infection.

According to a public order issued by the Magistracy on the 29th of September, 1637, all the inhabitants of Congleton capable of bearing arms, were armed with halberds, and centinels placed at different points of approach to the town, to keep watch and ward, and prevent all intercourse with Derby and other infected places. It was also ordered, that if any inhabitant of the Borough brought corn, fruit, or any kind of merchandize from an infected place, the delinquent was to be shut up in his own house for twenty days, or longer, and maintained at his own expence. But if the offender was not a householder, the Mayor was to appoint the place of confinement, and the prisoner was to be maintained at the expence of the Corporation.

But notwithstanding these prudential measures, the dreaded pestilence at length reached Congleton in the month of March, 1641, and death in its most horrid aspect severed the ties of consanguinity, affinity, and even friendship itself! Several individuals made their escape from the town, and thus preserved their lives, leaving their property behind. Of those who remained, the greater part died. The sick were shut up in

their houses by the inexorable order of the public officers, and two pence a day allowed for the support of each infected sufferer. But all communication with their neighbours and friends was prevented by the warders, who watched the houses day and night, and supplied the sick from time to time with refreshments. So dreadful was this visitation, that whole families were carried off; and most of the people who died were suffered to perish without medical aid. When it was conjectured from the silence in their dreary abodes, that those wretched beings were dead, some person who had recovered from the Plague, or was bolder than the rest, would venture into the houses, and to use the words of a narrator and eye witness, "*drag out the dead, and bury them as so many dogs!*" An old man, who was a humourist, desired the warders to pull him out of his house when he was dead, and not let him rot there; and for that purpose he said he would tie a rope which they threw him, to his leg. When the usual time elapsed, in which the disease proved fatal, the warders attempted to drag him out with the rope, but could not move him. A resolute man then went in, and found him dead, with the rope tied to a piece of timber in the wall.

The Plague which thus depopulated Congleton, was brought from London in a box of clothes, sent down to North Rode Hall, from whence the contagion immediately spread through the county and carried off numbers. All intercourse between the inhabitants of other places and those of Congleton was entirely suspended for many months, and so desolate

was the town, that grass grew in the streets, and nearly covered the pavement. In all transactions with persons from an infected place, it was customary to pass the money through water, and to hold a letter to the fire for some moments, after which it was presented to the receiver in a pair of tongs held at arms length, or laid on the ground, to prevent as much as possible the danger of contagion by contact. The plague raged for more than a year in Congleton; in March 1641, several persons were shut up in their own houses, or in the pesthouse; and in May 1642, the clothing and goods of some persons recently deceased were ordered to be buried. There is no exact record of the number of the people who died of the plague in this town; but an order issued by the Mayor in June 1642 affords a melancholy proof of depopulation, for clean clothes were ordered for the use of the *nine* surviving inhabitants of the cabins.

In 1642, William, Earl of Derby, came to Congleton, where he was entertained by the Mayor and Corporation, as appears by a memorandum in the town records, in which the sum of nine shillings and four pence is mentioned as having been expended for wine to treat him. This nobleman was father to the celebrated James Earl of Derby, who was so zealously attached to the House of Stuart, and famed for his bravery, munificence, and fortitude. After the decapitation of Charles the First, who justly suffered for his - unconstitutional exactions, and the revival of the obsolete and absurd doctrine of passive obedience and non-resistance; the Earl of Derby joined the standard of

Charles II. and was taken prisoner, tried, condemned and beheaded at Bolton in 1651.

In consequence of the diminished population of Congleton, it was exempt from the evils of the civil war between Charles the First and the Parliament, but the Corporation suffered some of the inconveniences of those unsettled times. In 1642, the sum of five shillings and sixpence was paid by this Borough as a *ley* for trained soldiers in Nantwich. The year 1645 was marked by several occurrences in Congleton, which proved the predominance of the power of Parliament in this part of the kingdom. The Corporation paid five pounds to a Cornet Singleton, for his horse, which was stolen out of a stable in the town; six men of Congleton were ordered to Nantwich as soldiers, by summons, and paid *one shilling* a day, or two pence each. We are not informed whether these men were raised by ballot, or were volunteers; but they were doubtless recruits for the army of the Parliament. In the same year, the sequestrators appointed by the Republican Government, visited Congleton and demanded twenty pounds, the property of John Waller, Alderman. The Burgesses kept up an appearance of dignity on this occasion, but they were obliged to pay the money. The record on this subject is curious. "Nov. 19th, 1645, Thomas Spencer, Mayor. Forasmuch as the sequestrators *pretend a title unto twenty pounds*, lent unto the town by John Waller, Alderman; it is therefore ordered by the above-named, that what Mr. Mayor, the two Justices, and four Overseers conclude and agree upon with the said sequestrators concerning

the same, they would consent and agree unto." Except in this instance, it does not appear that the tranquillity of the Borough was interrupted, or its privileges infringed, during the ascendancy of the Republicans.

Congleton was not distinguished for any remarkable event during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. In 1656, according to the Corporation Books, it was ordered, "that John Bradshaw, Esq. of this Borough, learned in the law, be continued High Steward of, and Counsell for this Borough as formerly; and be paid the same salary quarterly for Counsell as heretofore hath been paid; and that he be acquainted herewith, and his acceptance thereof desired." This gentleman was probably a relation of President Bradshaw.

The same antisocial spirit which had formerly been manifested by the Corporation, continued to actuate them and operate against an increase of population. According to a record dated July 16, 1658, it was ordered. "That no person shall build any cottage, or make any encroachment upon the commons belonging to this Borough, upon any pretence whatsoever." This narrow spirit was undoubtedly the principal cause of the obscurity in which Congleton still continued, though it was then a very great thoroughfare for travellers of every description. Hitherto it had produced no man eminent for ingenuity or enterprize, and the principal public business of the Corporation was the levying fines on refractory freemen, and residents who refused to purchase their freedom. Some

dawnings of improvement, however, began to appear, for in October, 1658, five pounds were given to the inhabitants of Buglawton Township, upon condition that they should make "a Horse-Bridge over Davan-in-shaw Ford."

In March 1659, Mr. John Smith, of Hay Carr, in Staffordshire, was appointed Master of the Grammar School in Congleton, at a salary of sixteen pounds a year.

Soon after the demise of Oliver Cromwell, his son Richard, who had been proclaimed Lord Protector, wisely laid aside the ensigns of authority, in consequence of which Charles the Second was restored without a struggle.

This wretched and unprincipled sensualist, the most worthless representative of the arbitrary House of Stewart, had during his perigrination indulged himself in all the vices of the Continent, and on his restoration he introduced the profligate manners of foreign Courts into his own, in return for the Crown conferred by a generous nation. Yet Charles now invested with regal power, was qualified to confer favours, and with all his imperfections on his head, he was infinitely more liberal than the grovelling imitator alluded to. Charles was undoubtedly a good natured man, though a sensualist; and though the profane wits of his age were admitted to his convivial board, neither his egotism nor his extravagance in the expenditure of money, were so contemptible or so wasteful, as what have been witnessed among *legitimate* sovereigns in modern Europe. Those worthies seem indeed to think, "*The world*

was made in vain if not for them ; and their ridiculous pretensions to superiority, by a display of pageantry, the exhibition of plate, diamond snuff-boxes, and *tremendous body-guards*, are supported with the utmost pertinacity by those writers, whose *purchased eulogium* is properly estimated by the rational part of mankind.

In consequence of the re-establishment of Royalty in England, it was thought expedient by Charles to exemplify and ratify the Charters granted by former Sovereigns, and this may account for the multitude of Charters granted during his reign. This was certainly a politic measure, as it had a direct tendency to impress the minds of those who received such favours with a high idea of the dignity of the monarch, while it inspired their gratitude.

EXEMPLIFICATION OF FORMER CHARTERS WHICH HAD
BEEN GRANTED TO THE CORPORATION OF
CONGLETON.

“ Charles the Second, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. to all &c. greeting. We have inspected the tenor of certain ancient Charters and other Records in the Chamber of our Duchy of Lancaster, &c. being in these words: ‘ Edward, by the Grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitain, to all &c. &c. greeting. Know ye that since our beloved and faithful Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln and Constable of Chester, hath granted and quitclaimed to us, for himself and his heirs, all

his castles, &c. &c. in Lancashire, Cheshire, &c. &c. with sundries in Yorkshire, with all his lands, which Alice de Lacy, his mother, holds as her dower, in the county of Lancaster, and which, at her death should return to him and his heirs, to have and to hold to us, and our heirs, together with knight's fees, avowsons of churches,' &c. That we, for his laudable service, have given, granted, and by this Charter, have confirmed, for us and our heirs, to the said Earl all his castles, &c. &c. &c. aforesaid, to have and to hold to the said Earl, and the heirs of his body begotten, all, &c. Yet so that if the said Earl shall die without heirs of his body begotten, then after the death of the Earl himself, and his heirs aforesaid, all his castles, lands, &c. may remain to Edmund our dear Brother, and his heirs for ever. Given under our hands at Westminster the 28th day of October, in the 22d year of our reign. [i. e. Oct. 28th, A. D. 1294.] And also another Charter in the following words, 'Sciant præsentes et futuri,' &c. [as in Henry de Lacy's Charter, except a word or two.] We have also inspected another Record in these words: 'Henry, Duke of Lancaster, Constable and Marshall of Chester, Lord of the Manor of Halton, claims many things, and amongst the rest he claims to hold his town of Congleton as a free Borough, and to have free Burgesses there, and that his said free Burgesses shall be quit of toll, passage, &c. for all things by them bought and sold, as well in the city of Chester as throughout the whole county of Chester, except of toll of salt in the Wyches, &c. And to have there one market day

weekly, on Saturday, and one fair there yearly, to wit, on the day of St. Martin in the winter, with all liberties and profits, which belong to a market or fair, &c. And to have View of Frank Pledge, and whatever belongs to that View of all Tenants and Residents within the Borough aforesaid, to be held three times a year, to wit, once between the Feasts of St. Michael and St. Martin in the winter, and again between the Feasts of St. Hilary and the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary, and a third, between the Feasts of the Holy Trinity and the Assumption of the Blessed Mary, and to have there Cognizance of a Plea respecting a Free Tenement in the Borough aforesaid, by a small close Writ of Right (*de libero Tenemento in Burgo prædicto per parvum breve de recto clausum*) to be held before the Bailiffs of the said Duke, and to have the issues, fines, and amercements thence arising.' Then follow some other claims to the end of that Record which is without date.

“ Also we have inspected another Record, the substance of which follows ‘ Edward the Third, in the 35th year of his reign, with the consent of his beloved cousin, Mitilda, or Maud, one of the daughters and heiresses of Henry, late Duke of Lancaster, assigns to his dear John, Earl of Richmond, and to Blanch, his wife, the other of the daughters and heiresses of the said Henry, a great number of Manors and Places, and amongst the rest Halton and Congleton, and orders William de Myrfield and John de Laysycroft, the Custodes of the said Henry’s lands, to give the said Earl and Blanch full Sesin. Witness the King at Henley, the 16th day of July.’ [i. e. July 16th A. D.

1351.] But We, (i. e. Charles the Second) have thought proper that the tenor of the separate Records aforesaid, should be exemplified by these presents, at the instance of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, of our Borough of Congleton, parcel of our Duchy of Lancaster, in the county of Chester. In witness whereof, we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Dated at our Palace in Westminster, under the seal of our Duchy of Lancaster aforesaid, the 10th March, in the 14th year of our reign and A. D. 1661-2.”

King Charles the Second grants to the Burgesses of Congleton a Charter in 1666-7 (Feb. 14.) By the vast multiplicity of words employed in this Charter and the changes rung on privileges, franchises, liberties, &c. one might be led to suspect that it was a designed trick put upon the Burghers. It grants no new privileges, abridges some, and very cautiously confirms the remainder.

Soon after the Restoration, the Freemen of Congleton appear to have had some difficulty in finding a person qualified to officiate as Minister in their Chapel, for at a meeting of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council in 1661, it was agreed, that every one in succession, beginning at the Mayor, should provide a Minister for one sabbath day, who was to be paid 10s. out of the common stock. In March 1669, a refractory priest of the name of Barber, was silenced by the Corporation, and the reason for his expulsion is given in the following curious order. “*Being* that Mr. Barber, minister, hath neglected and *slited* the whole

town very much ; it is this day ordered, that he shall not preach any more in our *Chappel*."

In the year 1674, the Corporation had an opportunity of defending their rights, by protecting one of the Burgesses who was arrested by the authority of a writ granted out of the County Court, contrary to their Charter.

On the accession of King James the Second, a Congratulatory Address was presented to his "*Sacred Majesty*," accompanied with a fervent prayer, that he might reign long. In this instance, the prayer of the Corporation of Congleton was unavailing ; the folly, bigotry, and perjury of King James, for he violated his Coronation Oath, soon produced an alienation in the minds of the people, and the glorious Revolution of 1688, fixed the British Throne upon the firm basis of public Liberty. That memorable and most important event in our history is not noticed in the Records of Congleton, nor does it appear that any congratulations were offered by the enlightened Freemen of that ancient and loyal Borough to the truly illustrious William the Third. Their own affairs seem to have completely occupied the attention of the public-spirited Burgesses ; and while the Popish and Protestant parties in the State, were struggling for the mastery both in the Cabinet and the Field ; we find the Corporation of Congleton engaged in the weighty matters of levying by distress several sums of money from refractory freemen and other inhabitants.

In the year 1698, we find two members of the Corporation deprived of their privileges in consequence of

poverty! No other crime can equal the crime of indigence in a commercial country!

In 1701, the Old Chapel belonging to Congleton, which stood at "Dane-Bridge-End," and a field called the Brownshold were sold. The number of Freemen on the 4th of September, 1702, was one hundred and seventy-nine, which proves that the population of the town was more than double in sixty years. At this period, the Corporation seem to have been sufficiently strict respecting the character and morality of its constituent members, for John Sidebotham, Alderman, was displaced for absenting himself from his public duty, and William Bailey, Alderman, was displaced for being a common drunkard, a common swearer, and for other misdemeanours.

As a proof of the prosperity and rapidly increasing population of Congleton, in 1709, several tradesfolks, not admitted to the privileges of the Corporation, were ordered to pay a quarterly sum for permission to pursue their various occupations. The following record respecting this regulation is illustrative in some degree of the state of society in Congleton a century ago, and as such it is both curious and valuable.

"October 8, 1709. Thomas Warlrich, Mayor. The following persons using and occupying trades within this Borough, and not being free of the same, shall pay the several sums of money hereafter mentioned, for being permitted to follow the same. And if any of them make default in paying the same, he, or they, shall be prosecuted according to law, viz.

James Dean, webster and clothier, 5s. each quarter.

Solomon Smith, nailor, 5s. and all such arrears as are now due for his stallage monies.

John Booth, tailor, 5s. delivering a certificate of his settlement.

Samuel Twemlow, saw maker, 6s. 8d. per quarter, delivering a certificate.

Jonah Scragg, whitesmith, 5s. per quarter.

Jonah Nicholas, webster, 6s. 8d. per quarter.

Joseph Hawthorne, clock maker, 5s. per quarter.

Joseph Wildblood, tailor, 5s. per quarter.

William Cartwright, dyer, 5s. per quarter.

Ellen Taylor, milliner, 1s. per quarter, and all arrears now due.

Mrs. Cartwright, milliner, 1s. per quarter, and all arrears.

Widow Gidman, 6d. per quarter.

Sarah Bayley, shopkeeper, 1s. per quarter, and all arrears.

William Newton, Jun. shoemaker, to pay 10s. for his freedom, or 1s. per quarter.

William Newton, glover, ditto.

Richard Walker, grocer, ditto.

Rebecca Kent, milliner, ditto.

Alice Lowe, shopkeeper, ditto.

George Lamb, Jun. salesman, ditto.

Humphrey Newton, glover, ditto, and twelve more.

Stephen Copland, to pay £3. for his freedom, or 6s. 8d. per quarter.

The Chace appears to have been one of the diversions of the Burgesses of Congleton, and is mentioned for the first time in the Town Records of 1723, for

according to a resolution dated January 24, that year, it was, "ordered among other things, that a Pack of Hounds shall be from henceforth kept within this Borough, and that the Mayor for the time being shall be the Master thereof; and if any game shall be hunted and an action of trespass commenced against any of the Aldermen or Capital Burgesses present, it shall be defended at the cost of the Corporation. The Mayor shall retain and keep a proper Huntsman for the purpose aforesaid, who shall be esteemed a menial servant to the said Mayor, and shall receive five shillings wages from the Mayor for the time being, out of the revenues of the said Borough." Thus an imitation of the field sports of the nobility and gentry was adopted by the Burgesses as they improved in wealth and refinement of manners.

Another improvement of great consequence to the comfort of the community took place in 1730, when the Old Chapel at Dane-Bridge-End was converted into a Workhouse for the Poor, and a considerable space enclosed as a yard in the rear of the building, at the expence of the Corporation.

In 1736, a general order was issued that none but Freemen should follow any trade in the town, on penalty of *ten shillings a day*. This order may be considered as amounting to a prohibition, and the total expulsion of all unprivileged handicraftsmen from the Borough. The prudence or propriety of this order is very questionable; it could not be conducive to the prosperity of the town, however it might gratify the pride of a few self-opiniated freemen; and the ingeni-

ous and enterprizing artificer, who was thus driven from Congleton, would contribute by his industry to the opulence of some more propitious community.

In the year 1740, the Higher Chapel or Church of Congleton was pulled down, and a new edifice of brick, with a handsome tower, erected in 1741.

An event of paramount importance to the welfare of the town took place in 1752, when the manufacture of silk was first introduced by John Clayton, an enterprizing individual from Stockport. A lease of the garden belonging to the Workhouse, situated on the northern bank of the Dane, was granted to him during the term of 300 years. It was agreed that he should erect mills on this space for the purpose of doubling silk, which were to be supplied with ten inches square of water from the Dane. He was to pay down eighty pounds to the Corporation, and the annual rent was to be one shilling. From this era, the prosperity of Congleton advanced regularly, and a correspondent increase of population, and improvement in the useful and ornamental arts, have been gradually conducive to the accommodation and happiness of society in this town.

John Clayton was an active and successful manufacturer, and in consequence of the increase of his business, he obtained a lease of the Corn Mills of Congleton in 1754, during three lives and 21 years, for the sum of £150. According to the tenor of this lease, he was permitted to take Nathaniel Pattison partner in these Mills.

In the year 1755, John Clayton was elected Mayor, and a great improvement in the regulations of the Corporation consequently took place. In the first place the Statutes at large, of which the Burgesses seemed totally ignorant, were ordered to be purchased; and the perusal of these heavy *tomes*, soon convinced the public Officers that their predecessors had often grossly violated the law of the land. This fact is very evident from an order dated Sept. 11, 1759, by which it was resolved, “That the Mayor and Justices shall be defended, supported, and indemnified, from any suit prosecuted against them, *for any thing which through ignorance or want of knowledge they have done, and not wilfully or through malice, in the execution of their office, committed against the laws and statutes of the realm.*” A consciousness that they had often tyrannized over their fellow-townsmen and others within their jurisdiction, probably suggested this expedient to avert retribution, in imitation of certain men in power who required indemnity for their past, and security for their future enormities! There is not a Corporation in the United Kingdom in which “the Laws and Statutes of the Realm” have not been wilfully and maliciously violated by those Oligarchs of a Day.

“ Could great men thunder

As Jove himself does, Jove would ne’er be quiet,

But every paltry pelting officer,

Would use his Heaven for thunder.”

The silk mill and machinery erected by John Clay-

ton, of Stockport, on the bank of the Dane at Congleton, cost about two thousand pounds; the building was begun by the public spirited proprietor in 1752 and finished in 1755. Although John Clayton was in reality a great benefactor to the town; the Corporation sacrificed their gratitude to their regulations, for in the year 1761, he was displaced from his office of Alderman for non-residence. Even the merit of his having established the silk throwster's business in Congleton in insidiously concealed, and the honour given to another at the expence of truth, for the inscription on the monument of Samuel Pattison, who died in 1756, and was buried in the Church, states that *he* first introduced the silk manufacture in Congleton, and lived to see it brought to perfection.

In 1782, the bridge over the river Dane was pulled down, and a new and wider bridge erected, which cost seven hundred pounds.

The year 1798 was memorable in this town for the public-spirit of the Corporation, and the inhabitants in general. In March that year £100. was presented to his Majesty as a contribution to enable him to carry on the war against the French Republic; and in September the same year, twenty guineas were presented to the Congleton Volunteers.

By the authority of an Act of Parliament granted in 1795, the Commons belonging to the Corporation were inclosed.

On the 8th day of March, 1804, the Corporation employed John Brown to pull down the Town Hall, and rebuild one more spacious and convenient on its

scite, according to a proposed plan. He was to receive the sum of £630, and the old materials. The shop and room connected with the old Town Hall were purchased from Mr. Shackerley for £70, and the whole expenditure for the new edifice was seven hundred pounds. The Charters belonging to the Corporation were translated from the original Latin in the course of this year, and ten guineas paid to the Rev. J. Wilson, the translator.

From 1804 to 1806, no event of importance occurred in Congleton; but on the 6th of November, 1806, an address couched in the most loyal and significant terms was presented to the Prince of Wales while he stopped in the town. This address and the answer are both given in full in the Appendix, and are good specimens of concise and expressive compliments on the one part, and courtly politeness on the other.

PRESENT STATE OF CONGLETON.

According to the enumeration of the population of England in 1811, Congleton contained 944 inhabited houses, 5 building, and 30 uninhabited. The number of families was 986; 158 were employed in agriculture; 750 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft; and 78 not comprized in the two preceding classes. Males, 2,023; Females, 2,593; Total of Inhabitants, 4,616.

The Borough of Congleton as has already been mentioned, was incorporated by Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, towards the close of the thirteenth, or about the

commencement of the fourteenth century. Afterwards, by the marriage of the heiress of Henry with the Earl of Lancaster, it became invested in the Crown, and was granted by Charles the First in fee-farm to Ditchfield and others. The Manor passed by successive females to the Grahams, and Rawdons; and in the year 1745, it was purchased of Sir John Rawdon and Helena his wife, by Peter Shakerley, Esq. and has since descended to C. W. J. Shakerley, Esq. the present proprietor.

From the foregoing brief History of Congleton, it must be evident to every reflecting reader that Congleton owes its prosperity to the manufactures of silk and cotton established in the present age.

There are now seventeen silk mills occupied by throwsters; five cotton factories in and near the town, and one paper mill. Of the inhabitants who may now be estimated at 5000 or more, nearly 3000, including children, are employed in the silk and cotton manufactures; and although Congleton, like all other towns where manufactures have flourished, must suffer under the temporary depression of trade which took place in the autumn of 1815, and yet continues in the autumn of 1816, yet the industrious inhabitants have very patiently endured a few privations, and appear content with a diminution of wages, since the price of provisions has also been diminished.

Among the public Buildings of Congleton the Church is conspicuous. It is a neat edifice of brick, with a square tower, which contains a clock, and six tunable bells. The interior is clean and handsome; the pews are of oak, and the chancel adorned with

paintings of St. Paul and St. Peter. There are also a few other ornaments in this church, particularly a Glory above the east window with Cherubs, and the name of the Deity in Hebrew. There are but few monuments.

The Town Hall, built of brick, is ornamented with stone columns in front, which support a piazza, very convenient for the people who come to market. It contains the principal room for public business, a jury-room, a room for the confinement of debtors ; and two arched dungeons for the temporary imprisonment of criminals, till they can be removed to the county gaol.

Among other buildings worthy of notice, the principal Silk Mill erected on the bank of the Dane, near the bridge, is a very conspicuous object.

The Workhouse, a neat and commodious edifice, was erected in the year 1811, on the Moss, about half a mile from the town.

The Grammar School, which is an ancient institution, is in the gift of the Corporation, who allow the master a salary of £16 ; but he also has a house, garden, and close containing an acre of land, rent-free ; and the interest of £20. per annum given by a Mr. Hulme in 1736. The school is free only to the sons of Burgesses.

APPENDIX

TO THE

History of Congleton,

CONTAINING

CURIOUS EXTRACTS FROM THE CORPORATION BOOKS,

From 1572 to 1814; or 242 Years.

AT the Court of Congleton holden there, before Sir John Savage, Knight, Steward there, and Roger Green, Mayor, on Tuesday the 15th of April, in the 14th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, A. D. 1572.

(Six Aldermen and eight Burgesses being sworn.)

It is ordered and decreed for ever by the said Steward, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, of the said town of Congleton, and especially by the said Jury, that no person or persons inhabiting within this town or lordship, shall keep more than three sheep for each acre of land which he occupies, on penalty of forfeiting to the Queen's Majesty's use, twelve pence.

AT THE FIRST COURT OF ORDERS, holden within the Borough and Town of Congleton before Richard Green, Gent. Mayor, and the Commonalty of the said Town, on Thursday the 19th day of March, in the 26th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth A. D. 1584.

N. B. This is the first Court holden under the Charter of Queen Elizabeth, which is dated, June 3d. preceeding.

At this court about two hundred were sworn in Freemen.

Five were sworn to be Viewers over all kinds of Victuals.

Two sworn to be Searchers and Sealers of Leather.

William Wuttakars, Sen. Currier, sworn to be dresser of tanned Leather.

Three sworn to be Viewers over all kinds of Leather-men.

Two sworn to be Viewers over all kinds of Mercers, Drapers, and such like.

Six sworn to be Viewers over all such persons as carry Fuel, called Burley-men.

AT THE 2d. COURT OF ORDERS, holden April 8, 1584.

First. It is ordered that every householder, shall send his young persons to Church, to be instructed in the Catechism.

2d. That every Freeman shall attend at the Common Hall, at the day of the Election of the Mayor and other Officers, on pain to forfeit each time 6d.

3d. That he shall be Mayor who shall have the most voices.

4th. In case the votes be equal, the old Mayor shall have the casting vote.

5th. If the Freeman who shall have the greatest number of voices, shall refuse to be Mayor, he shall forfeit £5.

6, 7, 8, 9. In case the Mayor shall die, who shall

be Mayor, and who shall give him his oath; against tethering Cattle in the West-field; and that Freemen shall pay what is assessed on them.

10th. A stranger not to be made a Freeman without a testimonial.

11th. The Mayor shall have care of poor fatherless children, to bring them up in the fear of God, and some good trade or occupation.

12th. The Mayor shall appoint the Serjeant.

13th. The Mayor shall make his accompts to the new Mayor, within five weeks next after he goes out of office.

14th. The Fair days of St. Philip and James, and of St. Martin, shall be kept on the eves, the days, and the morrows for Cattle, and all kinds of Merchandize.

15th. The Freemen shall be ready at the calling of the bell, to wait on the Mayor through the Fair every day that the Mayor shall walk the said Fair, in their best apparel, and with a sufficient weapon, or forfeit every time twelve pence. Those who are of the counsel shall be discharged from bearing weapons.

16th. Pinners and pounders of foreigner's cattle.

17th. John^{we} Smith, hatter, to take care of the town-wood, called the Acre Wood.

11th. Every person cutting down quick wood in the said wood shall forfeit for every burthen less or more, 3s. 4d. For carrying away any burthen of hedgewood, 2s.

AT THE THIRD COURT OF ORDERS, holden Tuesday, 28th of April, in the same year, *i. e.* 1584.

First. Every apprentice shall be enrolled by his master in the Mayor's court upon pain of forfeiting 10s.

2d. That every apprentice who has served his time shall have a certificate thereof under the town seal, paying not above 3s. 4d.

3d. That no person shall use any weights or measures for buying or selling, but such as have been marked or sealed by the Mayor, on pain of forfeiting 3s. 4d.

AT THE FOURTH COURT OF ORDERS, holden Tuesday the 26th of May, 1584.

First. That no person shall keep any inmate, being a stranger, without licence from the Mayor and Counsel, on pain to forfeit for every month 10s.

2d. That the viewers of those wells, Stockwell, the Lower Well, and the well at Lawton-street end, shall appoint three or four neighbours to keep clean and sweet the said wells; and that five persons then appointed shall give warning to all householders to clean the streets every Saturday evening, before their houses, unto the crest or middle of the pavement; and for every time they neglect to keep clean the said wells or street to forfeit 4d.


AT A COURT OF ORDERS, holden Monday the 9th of November, 1584.

That if any person keeping Inn or Alehouse, suffer any unlawful games, or secrete any light or suspicious persons in their houses, shall forfeit for every time 6s. 8d.

That if any man's sons, servants, or apprentices, be taken by the officers in the street or town, after

nine of the clock in the night, it shall be lawful for the officers to put such persons in the prison, there to remain during the Mayor's pleasure.

That a quart and half quart dish, shall be had and made for *measuring butter*, and such like.

 Ellen Comberbach was fined 2s. 8d. for selling leather not sufficiently tanned; and several persons were fined 4d. each, for keeping swine not yoked and ringed.

AT A COURT OF ORDERS, holden on Wednesday the 2d of December, in the 27th of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, A. D. 1585.

First. Richard Spencer, Gent. Hugh Oldham, and John Smith, were licenced to keep Inns, giving a bond of 40s. not to suffer unlawful games, not to receive stolen goods, nor harbour suspicious persons. Nor sell any *ale*, or *beer*, in their house or *without*, *above one penny the quart*.

2d. Forty two more licenced to keep alehouses or tippling houses, on the same conditions.

At the COURT holden before John Hobson, Mayor, on Tuesday the 26th of November, 1588, thirty butchers selling meat in Congleton were fined 2d each, for breaking the assize; and ten persons were fined for keeping swine unyoked, 2d for each swine.

AT THE FIRST COURT OF ORDERS, holden before Matthew Moreton, Mayor, on Friday the 10th day of October, 1588, the usual officers were appointed for the year following; all the Bye-Laws were reviewed, and most of them ordered and decreed anew; it was also ordered :

That every Freeman who should refuse to pay any of the preceding fines laid upon him, should be disfranchised.

That no stranger shall be made free, nor suffered to dwell in the town or lordship, except he bring a certificate of his good behaviour; and if he have children, shall give bond to discharge the town of the same.

That the Mayor's Court shall be holden every eight weeks, on the Tuesday, beginning from the 14th day of October.

It is decreed, that such of the Counsel as have been Bailiff or *Catchpole*, shall have a *black* or *sad coloured* gown, and all others of the Counsel a *gown*, or *sad* coloured cloak.

Curious Disbursements during the Mayoralty of Matthew Moreton, in 1590.

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|----|---|
| To John Lowndes and others for boards for the School House..... | £1 | 0 | 0 |
| To the Writer his quarter's wage | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Raufe Lowe for 20lb. candles, bell ropes, and nails for the school, two stools and a table for the schoolmaster | 0 | 19 | 4 |
| Mr. Tilman, schoolmaster, towards his wage.... | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| More in part of what is owing to him..... | 2 | 15 | 6 |
| Given to Sir John Hollesworth's <i>bearward</i> | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Lord Darcy's Players, by consent of Overseers | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| | <hr/> £6 7 10 <hr/> | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|----|-----|---|----|
| <i>Amount brought forward....</i> | | | £6 | 7 | 10 |
| Furniture Money to Sir William Brereton, Knight, and other Justices..... | 1 | 18 | 0 | | |
| More to them for the Queen's Surveyor..... | 0 | 5 | 6 | | |
| The Queen's Rent due Lady Day, 1590..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Jane Smith for Besse Riddleworth's exhibition her burial, and winding sheet | 1 | 0 | 8 | | |
| The Minister, Sir Humphrey Phithian's quar- ter's wage | 2 | 10 | 0 | | |
| Mr. Tilman, the schoolmaster, his quarter's wage, and part of another..... | 5 | 0 | 0 | | |
| There remains now unpaid to him £1. 13. 4. | | | | | |
| Sir Roger Williams, the curate's quarter's wage | 1 | 14 | 4 | | |
| Mr. Tilman, the schoolmaster's ditto. | 3 | 6 | 8 | | |
| The Queen's Rent due at Easter, 1589..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | | | £24 | 3 | 0 |

Rene Poynton and Roufe Stubbs, *Millreaves.*

Profits of the Mill ending at Michaelmas last were
£72. 1. 6.

AT THE FIRST COURT OF ORDERS, holden before
Wm. Drakeford, the 10th Day of October, in the 34th
of Elizabeth, A. D. 1592.

That no person shall put any butter into any cakes
or bread between the Feast of St. Michael, and the
Feast Day of St. Barnabas; nor any sheep's suet, or
such like stuff in any cakes or bread in any time of the
year, upon pain of forfeiting every time 3s. 4d.

On the 28th day of September, 1618, there were only seventy-eight householder's names called over in the Town Hall, which reckoning at the rate of five persons to each family, would make the whole population of Congleton at that period amount to only 390 persons.

1621. The predilection of the inhabitants of Con-

gleton in the seventeenth century for the elegant divertimento of bear-baiting, is proved from their own records. In this respect, however, they were more censurable than the rest of their countrymen, to whom the savage exhibition of dogs tearing a bull to pieces, or one well lacerating another, afforded the highest gratification. Peculiar circumstances, indeed, seem to prove that the Burgesses of Congleton preferred Bruin to their Priest, for it is recorded that in 1621, they sold their bible to buy a bear; which has since been used as a stigma of contempt by the malignant, but at which the present inhabitants of Congleton have the good sense to laugh, and even they themselves facetiously call their Borough, "Bear-town."

There are two accounts given of this curious transaction, the first of which, and indeed the most probable is, that there being a new bible wanted for the use of the Chapel, and the Corporation was not able to purchase one, though they had laid up part of the price. Meanwhile, the town-bear died, and the *Bearward* not having money sufficient to purchase another, he applied to the Corporation for assistance, who after mature deliberation thought it expedient to take the money laid by for the purchase of a bible, and give it to the Bearward to buy a Bear. The other tradition, which bears very hard indeed upon the morality of the good Burgesses of Congleton, roundly asserts, that they actually sold their bible, and gave the price of it to the Bearward to purchase another *Ursa Major*!

At the Court holden the 14th day of April, 1625. Ordered, that if any Alderman, Capital Burgess, or Freeman of this Borough, shall in their public assemblies demean himself uncivilly either in speech or gesture; such offender for every such offence shall forfeit for the use of the Corporation ten shillings, to be levied on his goods and chattels, and for default of such payment imprisoned until he submit himself to make payment thereof.

Borough of Congleton, County of Chester, 1637.

Certain Orders, Laws, and Ordinances set down by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Counsell of the Town aforesaid, for the better *Regiment* and Government of the Inhabitants of the same, and Preservation of Peace and Order there, the 29th day of September in the 13th year of the reign of King Charles, A. D. 1637.

John Bradshaw, Mayor.

Edward Drakeford, Justice of Peace.

Randull Rode, ditto.

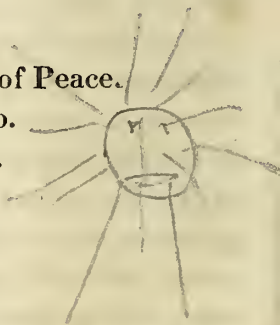
William Knight, Alderman.

Rauffe Wagg, ditto.

Roger Hobson, ditto.

John Rode, ditto.

John Waller, ditto.



Roger Buckley, Thomas Spencer, William Motershead, John Rode, tanner, and twelve more.

First. That the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Counsell, shall each of them within one month provide themselves of a good and sufficient halberd to be kept in their houses, ready upon all occasions for the

use and service of the town; and that every Freeman and other Inhabitant of the said Town and Liberties thereof, mentioned in a note or catalogue subscribed by the Mayor, Justices, Aldermen, and Common Counsell, shall in like manner provide themselves with halberds for the same service before the Feast of St. Martin, under the penalty of 10s. each, to be immediately levied on their goods. And in case of resistance, the party resisting to be committed to prison, there to remain till the said forfeiture be paid.

2d. The Mayor is entreated to procure the same, and he is to be paid by the parties within one week after they come to their hands.

3d. That all the Aldermen in their gowns, the rest of the Common Counsell, in their cloaks, and the Freeman aforesaid, with their halberds, shall attend on the Mayor, or Duputy Mayor, at the fairs and other convenient times which the Mayor or Deputy Mayor shall appoint, upon pain of forfeiting 5s. to be levied as above.

4th. That the Constables shall within three days bring all the halberds belonging to this town, unto the Town Hall, to be in the custody of the Serjeant until the keeping of them be disposed of by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Counsell.

5th. That four Constables and five more of the Freeman, not being of the Common Counsell, shall attend the Mayor with their halberds to and from the Chapel every Sunday, and other holiday, at other times and places as they shall be required, under penalty of forfeiting 5s. to be levied as above for the town's use.

6th. That no person shall suffer his swine to go abroad in the streets, under the penalty of 12 pence, to be levied according to former orders.

7th. Nor suffer his swine to trespass on his neighbours under the same penalty.

8th. That Mr. Redman, Minister of this town, shall have his former wages allowed, and well and truly paid to him, by contenting himself therewith, and ordering himself otherwise as is fit; and in default thereof, a new Minister to be chosen, approved by the Mayor, with the consent and privity of the Aldermen and Common Counsell.

9th. In regard of the dangers of the times, by reason of the *contagion* of the sickness in the neighbouring countries; it being requisite that some good orders should be made, for the prevention, as much as may be, of the approaching danger, which by God's grace and blessing, may be the better prevented by due care taken in that behalf. It is therefore ordered, that no innholder, alehouse-keeper, victualler, or any other person of this town, shall receive into their houses, any carrier, malster, or other person travelling hither from Derby, or from other place, infected or suspected. Or receive any grain, malt, or other commodity from any common carrier, who shall not bring with him a sufficient certificate, that it came not from any place infected, or generally suspected; and make oath of the same if required, upon pain of forfeiting for every such offence 20s. and that every person refusing to take such oath, shall immediately be committed to prison, or else with his horses

and carriage (if he have any) to be conveyed out of the town, by the Officers, Wardens, and Watchmen. And it is ordered, that due and diligent Watch and Ward shall be continued at the accustomed places, in such manner and form as is appointed by the Mayor and Justices, or any two of them. And whoever shall refuse to do his duty, shall forfeit 5s. to be levied as above for the town's use.

10th. That no innkeeper, alehouse-keeper, or victualler, shall receive into his house, while the infection is in the neighbouring parts, any person after ten o'clock in the night, unless the said person is well known to them, and such as they will answer for, or be allowed by the Mayor or Justices, or some one of them.

11th. That whatsoever person of this town or lordship, shall presume to bring into this town any corn or fruit, or other commodity, during the time of the infection in the neighbouring countries, from any such infected place, shall immediately upon his return, be shut up in his house, or some other place appointed by the Mayor or Justices, and shall be detained there for *twenty days*, or longer, to be maintained out of his own goods, if he have any, and if not, at the town's charge. And Watch and Ward to be kept about the said house, during the said time of restraint, as the Mayor or Justice shall appoint.

12th. That whatsoever person within this town, shall presume by word or deed in unseemly manner, to affront or abuse the Mayor, Deputy, Justices, Constables, or other officers of this town, in the execution

of his or their offices or places, shall, besides the legal penalty appointed in such cases, forfeit for every such offence, the sum of 5s. to be levied as above, if he be of ability; if not, he shall be imprisoned and further punished, as to the Mayor, Deputy, Justices, or any two them, shall seem fit, *and is agreeable to the Laws of this Realm.* The said penalties to be levied by the Mayor's Serjeant assisted by the Constables, if there be occasion, out of the offender's goods. The same to be detained in the Serjeant's hands five days, within which time, if the offender do not redeem them by paying the forfeiture; then the goods to be sold, and the forfeiture deducted, and the overplus returned to the party offending.

March 4th, 1641. Daily allowance to every person shut up as sick and infected with the plague, *two pence*. Five pence a day for two *Warders* of the Cabins, and one other for the streets, to kill dogs

December 18th, 1641. The infection or sickness in Congleton, first appeared in one Laplove's house, which was warded day and night at 1s. each.

At an Assembly holden before George Forde, Mayor, the 26th of May, 1642. Ordered, That all such apparel, bedding, and other goods, which were the apparel, bedding, and goods of Richard Comberbach, late of this Borough, deceased; Jane, his wife, and Jane, his daughter, both deceased; and of John Comberbach, their son, now living; in regard of the danger they were in, and for preventing such further danger which might fortune to ensue thereby, shall be cut in pieces and buried immediately. The which

said apparel, bedding, and goods, are particularly specified in a note bearing date as aforesaid. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Counsell, consented to this order, except Rauffe Homersley.

At an Assembly holden before George Forde, Mayor, June 23d, 1642.

That the said Mayor shall provide clean and fresh clothes for all the people now within the Cabins, being *nine* in number, at the common charge of the town's box.

Sept. 24th, 1642. Whereas information hath been given unto the Mayor of the Borough aforesaid, of several disorders committed by Richard Rode, of said Borough, tippler, viz. that he is vehemently suspected for keeping and maintaining bawdry, and suffering divers persons of ill government to continue drinking in his house; and that he is an enemy to the peace and welfare of the said Borough. Therefore the Mayor and Justices have thought it requisite, and do hereby under their hands, *suppress the said Richard Rode.*

At an Assembly holden before Thomas Spencer, Mayor, August 24th, 1649.

Whereas, divers persons, some of them Inhabitants of this Borough, some Out-Burgesses, tho' they inhabit not in the said Borough, yet have rents coming to their purses yearly for lands in the said Borough; which said Burgesses are behind and unpaid all or most of their several laies and taxations, which have been imposed on them for four years last past, whereby the well affected and willing persons of the

Borough have been over pressed and hurt to pay their several laies and assessments oftener than they should have done, and these persons that have been backward in their payments, have hitherto withheld their several payments, contrary to the several warrants, which have come to the Constables' hands for the levying thereof, and contrary to all equity and good conscience. It is therefore ordered by the said Mayor and Common Counsell, that the Constables of this present year, together with all such as have been Constables for four years last past, shall all of them join together, and compel payment of whatever arrears of laies are behind, for the space and time aforesaid, and by what persons. The same laies and assessments to collect and gather in by distress or otherwise, betwixt this and the fifth day of September next; at which time they are required, to give account of their doing herein to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Counsell of this town. And for their pains herein it is ordered, that they shall have and receive three-pence in the pound, for all said moneys they shall so collect.

It is also further ordered, that the said Constables shall, for their several years, give in their several accounts of arrears respectively, to the Mayor within three days after sight of this present order.

Then follow two assessments for a whole *Mize*, *i. e.* £12, through the whole township; and one for three quarters of a *Mize*.

February 18th, 1655-6. Thomas Spencer, Mayor.
Upon consideration had of the abounding of alehouses

within the Borough, and the inconveniences that happen thereby, ordered, that all the persons whose names are underwritten be *suppressed* from brewing, selling, retailing, or uttering ale or beer within their dwelling-houses untill further orders therein ; and that the laws and statutes in that case made and provided, be forthwith put in execution for the punishing of all such as shall offend therein.

Eighteen names are underwritten.

March 21st, 1656. Twenty-eight alehouse keepers allowed.

July 28th, 1656. That all books and writings whatsoever, that concern the town, shall be called into the Town Hall, and shall hereafter be there kept, and not in the hands of any particular person ; and that there shall be a chest made for that end and purpose, the keys whereof the Overseers for the time being shall keep.

May 6th, 1657. Thomas, Earl Rivers, Viscount Colchester, Lord Darcy Baron of Chick, sworn High Steward of Congleton.

January 23, 1658. Admitted and sworn Freemen,

Hugh Leigh, Esq. High Sheriff.

Thos. Stanley, Esq. of Alderley.

Thomas Croxton, Esq. of Ravenscroft.

Jonathan Bryan, Esq. of Stableford.

Henry Berkenhead, Esq. of Backford.

Henry Bradshaw, Esq. of Marple.

Peter Stanley, Esq. of Alderley.

Thomas Brooke, Clerk,

And eleven more styled Gentlemen.

March 9th, 1659. Mr. John Smith, Gent. of Hay Carr, in the county of Stafford, appointed Schoolmaster, and to receive £16. per annum, quarterly.

Oct. 15, 1661. That every one of this Counsell do endeavour to procure a Minister to supply this place for one Sabbath day a-piece, until such time as an able Minister shall be agreed upon by this Counsell, to be hired to be constant Minister within the said Borough; and that in the mean time there be 10s. a Sabbath paid out of the common stock unto such Minister as shall be procured by any one. And that the Mayor do provide for the first Sabbath, and so every one else in their several places.

May 17th, 1662. At a meeting of the Commissioners appointed for the well governing and regulating of Corporations; *four* Aldermen, and *seven* Capital Burgesses, including Jonathan Walley, the town clerk, were removed and discharged from their place, and others appointed in their stead.

Oct. 6th, 1662. Matthew Lowdnes sworn Gaol-keeper, and a list of the mace, *bridle for scolding women*, bolts, locks, and manacles delivered to him.

March 2d, 1668-9. John Walker, Mayor. That Mr. Barber, Minister, should be Schoolmaster too if he pleased.

March 17th, 1668-9. "Being that Mr. Barber, Minister, hath neglected and *skited* the whole town very much; it is this day ordered, that he shall not preach any more in our Chappel."

May 18th, 1669. That Mr. Armstrong should preach at this town until midsummer next, and after-

wards *if he was liked*; and should be paid according to the town's wages, *i. e.* 9s. 6d. a week.

Sept. 14th, 1669. Mrs. Susannah Walker did pay for her freedom in this Borough of Congleton, the sum of £5. and if in case she *chance* to marry, her husband is to be free of any trade in this Borough, for the foresaid five pounds, already paid in the presence of John Walker, Mayor; Richard Cotton, and William Newton, Justices; John Latham, and John Kent, Aldermen, &c.

July 29th, 1670. Were admitted, and sworn Freemen of this town.

Sir Thomas Middleton, Knt. and Bart.

Sir Jeffrey Shackerley, Knt.

Thomas Cholmondley, Esq.

Charles Manwaringe, Esq.

Mr. William Venables.

Mr. Thomas Leigh.

Mr. Peter Wilbraham.

Mr. Roger Manwaringe.

Mr. Pewsley Brookes.

Messrs. John and William Grosvenor.

Mr. Thomas Salisbury.

Mr. Robert Vernon, and six more.

May 19th, 1671. Richard Cotton, Mayor. John Turner, ironmonger, was disfranchised from being any longer a freemen, by reason, he seldom or never did give his appearance as other freeman usually *doth*; or to serve any office, as other freemen have, and *doth* do.

May 19th, 1674. Robert Hobson, Mayor. That

Mr. Harrison be hired to be Minister of the Chapel of this Borough for one half year, provided he be allowed by the Bishop of this Diocese, to exercise the said function.

August 26th, 1674. An usual Mize, *i. e.* £12. ordered to be levied and collected, to defend the just rights and privileges of this Borough; Lawrence Turner, of Drayton, having caused a writ *Sufficiæ*, to be executed therein, granted out of the County Court of Chester, against Thomas Cotton, mercer, one of the Capital Burgesses of this Borough, contrary to our Charter. And that every person forthwith pay their proportions, *upon this urgent occasion.*

Feb. 2d, 1676. Thomas Butcher, Mayor. That John Whittaker, bellman of this town, do pay 40s. yearly for the toll-corn which he receives in the market. That the said John, shall be more careful than heretofore in ringing of the bell at mornings and evenings at due time; and in looking that the clock and chimes be kept in due order; and that he shall attend the Minister, and duly perform all the offices of Clerk and Sexton of the Chapel.

Oct. 13th, 1677. John Walker, Mayor. That Charles Gerard, son and heir of Lord Branden, sworn a freeman of this Borough.

April 8th, 1681. William Newton, Mayor. That Joseph Gray, an apothecary, be admitted a freeman of this Borough, he paying £10.

That three Mizes, (£36) be levied and gathered on the lands and goods of the Inhabitants and Out-Burgesses, towards the repairs of the bridges of this Borough,

Nov. 1st. 1681. William Harding, Mayor. That John Lighfoot, and Griffith Floyd, be suppressed from selling ale or beer for the future; and likewise all others of this Borough, that shall henceforth buy malt that is ground at any other mill, than the mill of this Borough.

That Richard Brownsword, Capital Burgess, be displaced from his office, by reason of several words by him uttered, and other *miscarriages* by him committed, contrary to his trust.

May 4th, 1684. Peter Lingard, Mayor. That an address to his sacred Majesty, King James the Second, be drawn up and presented, to congratulate his Majesty's peaceable and happy entrance on his reign, and government, whom God send him long to reign amen.

Sept. 22d. 1691. John Shaw, Mayor. It is ordered, that no person not being free of the town, shall at any time after the Feast of St. Michael next ensuing, by any means whatsoever, keep any shop or other place, inward or outward, for the shew, sale, or putting to sale, any wares or merchandize whatsoever, or use any art, trade, mystery, occupation, or handicraft, within the liberties of the said Borough, upon pain to forfeit to the Gaoler of the said town, to the use of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the said Borough, the sum of fifty shillings, for every time such person shall keep any such shop, &c. or use any such art, trade, &c. within the said Borough, or liberties thereof.

May 24th, 1698. John Vardon, Mayor. Robert Knight being so low and decayed in his estate, as to

be unqualified to serve the office of Mayor, &c. he is displaced from his office of Alderman.

And Richard Kirks being confined in Chester for debt, and not likely to be liberated; is also displaced from his office of Capital Burgess.

Several other instances occurred soon after these, of persons being displaced at their own request, for age and infirmities.

Sept. 9th, 1704. William Bailey, Alderman, standing indicted at Chester, on two indictments as a common drunkard, and common swearer; and for other misdemeanours, to the great scandal and disgrace of this Borough, is displaced from being an Alderman.

William Fernes, Esq. elected in his place, the same day.

June 17th, 1709. John Shaw, Mayor. Mr. Malbon, the Minister, was elected Head Master, salary £1. per quarter, and what he would make by country scholars and perquisites; and Thomas Bourne, elected Under-Master, at a salary of £3. per quarter, and to give bond of £100. to resign at half a year's notice, if required by the major part of the Corporation.

January 13th, 1718-9. Joseph Ward, Mayor. That Mr. Thomas Bourne be made a freeman *gratis*, having been the Under-Schoolmaster for several years last past, and having discharged his trust, to the content of the Corporation like an honest, painful, ingenious, careful gentleman,

That Joseph Dean shall pay £4. 10s. for his freedom, or 5s. a quarter for his stallage.

March 18th, 1719. Account of the donation of Dr.

Stanley, Dean of St. Asaph, viz. £200. to purchase the Queen's bounty for Congleton Chapel.

Oct. 12th, 1722. Joseph Malbon, Mayor. Order for building the parlour and cellar to the school-house.

Oct. 3d. 1725. John Barlow, Mayor. That the Mayor in future, shall have the tolls of Shrovetide Fair, as a perquisite towards carrying off the said office of Mayor decently.

Nov. 7th, 1726. John Bostock, Esq. Mayor. That a new house shall be erected next spring, in the place of the old house, at the head end of the Moody-street, which was given by one James Hall, for the use of the Curates of this Chapel; and that the Corporation shall expend on the building thereof, any sum not exceeding £100. which new house shall remain to the use of Mr. Walwood and his successors, Curates of said Chapel.

April 3d, 1729. Thomas Kelsall, Mayor. That the Mayor of Macclesfield be written to, to cease taking of Pickage and Toll from the Freemen of Congleton.

Feb. 16th, 1730. William Amery, Esq. Mayor. That the Mayor, Justices, and Aldermen, (except Thomas Bowyer (who is Recorder of Macclesfield)) meet some persons from Macclesfield to settle the above differences.

Nov. 30th, 1736. Richard Martin, Mayor. A general order, that none but Freemen shall follow any trade within the town, on penalty of *ten shillings* a day.

Oct. 27th, 1752. Joseph Bramhall, Esq. Mayor.

That the middle By-flat, or Poorhouse Garden, be demised to John Clayton, of Stockport, silk throwster, to erect mills thereon for the doubling of silk; with liberty of ten inches square of water from the Dane, and to alter the wheels and soughs of the present corn mills at his own expence, so that they may be worked as well as usual with less water; for the term of three hundred years, rent one shilling *per ann.* and to pay down £80. consideration money for the demise. And to give security, that his servants, workmen, and apprentices, from other towns and parishes, shall not gain settlements by his services: and for payment of one fourth part of the charge of repairing the great ware for the said mills

May 2d, 1454. John Drake, Esq. Mayor. The Town Corn Mills let to John Clayton for £160. during the lives of Nathaniel Pattison, Samuel Pattison, and James Clayton, and for 21 years after; and the said John Clayton is allowed to take the said Nathaniel Pattison, partner in the said mills.

Feb. 21st, 1755. John Clayton, Mayor. That the statutes at large shall, with all convenient speed, be purchased at the charge and for the use of the Corporation.

Sept. 11th, 1759. Richard Martin, Mayor. That the Mayor and Justices of Peace shall be defended, supported, and indemnified from any suit prosecuted against them for any thing which through ignorance they may have done, and not wilfully or through malice, in the execution of their office, committed against the laws and statutes of this realm: and that the ex-

pences of such actions and informations shall be defrayed out of the revenues of the Corporation.

July 29th, 1763. Joseph Hill, Mayor. That there shall not be above *thirty-four* alehouses licensed in the town.

May 2d, 1772. Philip Antrobus, Mayor. Whereas, Richard Sandbach, Curate, claims the freehold of our chapel of Congleton, and insists upon it, that no person hath any right to bury their dead in our said chapel, or to erect any monument in said chapel, or chapel yard; and hath taken of the representatives of the late Richard Webster, Alderman, the sum of 10s. 6d. for his consent to bury the corpse of the said Richard Webster in the said chapel, contrary to the usage and custom, which we look upon as an encroachment upon our rights and privileges in the said chapel. Ordered, that no person shall bury their dead in our said chapel, &c. without our licence and consent, and that the said Richard Sandbach shall have notice of this our order, and that a Councell's opinion shall be had thereon.

April 12th, 1776. Thomas Yearsley, Mayor. R. Sandbach, Minister, having refused to visit sick people, and privately to baptize weak sickly infants, the Mayor and Justices for the time being, are appointed a Committee to manage, prosecute, and carry on a presentiment against him in the Ecclesiastical Court.

March 8th, 1798. John Whitfield, Mayor. That the sum of £100. be given as a voluntary subscription to his Majesty, under "An Act for granting a Contribution to his Majesty for the Prosecution of the War."

Sept. 6th, 1798. The sum of twelve guineas was ordered for the Congleton Volunteer Association ; and Feb. 3d, 1800, eight guineas more were ordered.

Nov. 7th, 1803. Robert Hodgson, Mayor. That all the Charters, Muniments, and ancient Writings belonging to and respecting this Corporation be translated, or otherwise fair written ; and that Mr. Mayor and the Town Clerk transmit the same to Mr. Beltz, Clerk to Sir Isaac Heard, of the Herald's College for the above purpose.

March 8th, 1804. This day agreed with James Brown, joiner, that he should build a new Town Hall, Prison, and Collonade, according to a plan produced, for which he should be paid the sum of £360. and have the old materials.

Dec. 5th, 1805. The sum of ten pounds ordered to be given to the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd's Coffee House, in aid of the families of those seamen, soldiers, and volunteers who fall this war, and of the wounded.

Jan. 31st, 1806. Ordered that the public bell at Mrs. Foden's house be removed to the Town Hall, and properly hung there for the benefit of the town.

Nov. 6th, 1806. Ordered that the Address of this Corporation to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales passing through this town in September last, with the Prince's Answer, be inserted in our Corporation Book of Orders and Entries.

COPY.

" May it please your Royal Highness,
We, his Majesty's your Royal Father's loyal sub-

jects, the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgesses, and High Steward of the Borough of Congleton, humbly approach your Royal Highness, with our respectful congratulations on your entrance into our most gracious Sovereign's County Palatine of Chester, of which ancient County your Royal Highness is Earl. We devoutly pray, that when it shall please God to finish the glorious course of his most sacred and illustrious Majesty, your Royal Highness *may be a blessing to!* and long reign over a free, prosperous, and loyal people. We felicitate ourselves on the fortunate occasion, which enables us to express those feelings of respect and affection, which we must ever entertain towards your Royal Highness, and every part of your August Family."

THE PRINCE'S ANSWER.

"To the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgesses, and High Steward of the Borough of Congleton.

"The universal sentiments of attachment and regard which have been manifested towards my person in every part of the country through which I have passed, and so conspicuously in your ancient Borough, have filled me with emotions not to be erased. Your welcome, particularly on my entrance into the County Palatine from which I derive one of my proudest honours, affords me an additional gratification; and I desire to assure you, that the dearest wish of my heart, must and ever shall be, to promote the welfare and happiness of these kingdoms."

Nov. 24th, 1806. That the school hours of our Grammar School, with the approbation of the present Schoolmaster, from the first day of November to the first day of March in each year, commence at half past eight in the morning.

1811. Number of Inhabitants in Congleton 4,616.

1814. Congleton wear across the Dane washed away by a flood, and a new one erected which cost £2000.

POPULATION

OF

BUCKLOW HUNDRED

In the Year 1811.

| HUNDREDS. | Parish, Township, or, Extra-Parochi- al Place. | Inhabited. | HOUSES. | | | OCCUPATIONS. | | | PERSONS. | | |
|---------------------------------|--|------------|---|------------|--------------|--|--|--|----------|----------|---------------------|
| | | | By how many Fa- milies Oc- cupied. | Buildings. | Uninhabited. | Families chiefly employ- ed in Agricul- ture. | Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, or Handicraft. | All other Families not com- prized in the 2 pre- ceding classes. | Males. | Females. | Total of Persons |
| BUCKLOW | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ASHTON-UPON-MERSEY..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ashton-upon-Mersey..... | Township | 156 | 166 | 0 | 5 | 95 | 57 | 14 | 467 | 451 | 918 |
| Sale..... | Township | 158 | 166 | 0 | 2 | 92 | 67 | 7 | 445 | 456 | 901 |
| BOWDEN..... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Agden, part of..... | Township | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 52 | 38 | 90 |
| Altrincham..... | Township | 406 | 415 | 0 | 6 | 82 | 276 | 57 | 973 | 1,095 | 2,032 |
| Ashley..... | Township | 48 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 7 | 0 | 178 | 172 | 350 |
| Baguley..... | Township | 79 | 79 | 2 | 3 | 51 | 16 | 12 | 237 | 227 | 464 |
| Bollington, part of..... | Township | 36 | 47 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 18 | 4 | 118 | 115 | 234 |
| Bowden..... | Township | 66 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 18 | 8 | 195 | 208 | 403 |
| Carrington..... | Township | 81 | 84 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 49 | 8 | 239 | 241 | 480 |
| Dunham-Massey..... | Township | 145 | 169 | 1 | 0 | 126 | 15 | 28 | 467 | 469 | 936 |
| Hale..... | Township | 165 | 166 | 1 | 0 | 97 | 48 | 21 | 467 | 462 | 929 |
| Partington..... | Township | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 44 | 4 | 203 | 209 | 412 |
| Timperley..... | Township | 121 | 123 | 0 | 6 | 93 | 30 | 0 | 323 | 301 | 624 |
| (b) BUDWORTH GREAT..... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anderton..... | Township | 42 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 37 | 0 | 97 | 123 | 220 |
| Antrobus..... | Township | 77 | 81 | 1 | 1 | 63 | 4 | 14 | 179 | 206 | 385 |
| Aston..... | Township | 65 | 66 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 4 | 43 | 210 | 192 | 402 |
| Barnton..... | Township | 99 | 106 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 62 | 17 | 241 | 239 | 480 |
| Bartington..... | Township | 14 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 42 | 81 |
| Budworth Great..... | Township | 102 | 111 | 0 | 4 | 36 | 59 | 16 | 233 | 271 | 504 |
| Cogshall..... | Township | 14 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 47 | 43 | 90 |
| Comberbach..... | Township | 35 | 33 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 16 | 4 | 88 | 75 | 163 |
| Crowley..... | Township | 22 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 68 | 71 | 139 |
| Dutton..... | Township | 37 | 54 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 7 | 0 | 165 | 148 | 313 |
| Hulland Appleton..... | Township | 251 | 258 | 1 | 5 | 105 | 149 | 4 | 571 | 602 | 1,173 |
| Leigh Little..... | Township | 54 | 72 | 0 | 1 | 48 | 10 | 14 | 158 | 182 | 340 |
| Marbury..... | Township | 8 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 19 | 41 |
| Marston..... | Township | 63 | 67 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 39 | 7 | 177 | 172 | 349 |
| Peover Little..... | Township | 20 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 59 | 49 | 99 |
| Pickmere..... | Township | 31 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 4 | 0 | 85 | 83 | 168 |
| Plumley..... | Township | 56 | 61 | 1 | 4 | 63 | 4 | 0 | 191 | 176 | 367 |
| Seven Oaks..... | Township | 26 | 26 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 70 | 77 | 147 |
| Stretton..... | Township | 45 | 46 | 4 | 0 | 26 | 16 | 4 | 123 | 110 | 233 |
| Tabley Inferior..... | Township | 17 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 5 | 0 | 68 | 61 | 129 |
| Whitley Lower..... | Township | 29 | 44 | 0 | 1 | 39 | 5 | 0 | 120 | 113 | 233 |
| Whitley Over..... | Township | 51 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 14 | 2 | 130 | 136 | 266 |
| Whineham..... | Township | 78 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 22 | 8 | 229 | 191 | 420 |
| GRAPPENHALL..... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grappenhall..... | Township | 69 | 70 | 0 | 1 | 57 | 8 | 5 | 182 | 179 | 361 |
| Latchford..... | Township | 189 | 196 | 3 | 9 | 95 | 94 | 7 | 426 | 518 | 944 |
| KNUTSFORD..... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bexton..... | Township | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 31 | 58 |
| Knutsford Nether..... | Township | 448 | 475 | 1 | 5 | 26 | 276 | 173 | 993 | 1,121 | 2,114 |
| Knutsford Over..... | Township | 49 | 54 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 37 | 3 | 103 | 140 | 243 |
| Ollerton..... | Township | 43 | 46 | 0 | 2 | 40 | 2 | 4 | 117 | 112 | 229 |
| Toft..... | Township | 38 | 38 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 6 | 5 | 102 | 109 | 211 |
| LYMM..... | Parish | 315 | 348 | 1 | 2 | 123 | 193 | 30 | 923 | 985 | 1,908 |
| MOBBERLEY..... | Parish | 236 | 236 | 0 | 5 | 180 | 54 | 2 | 606 | 546 | 1,152 |
| ROSTHERN..... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leigh High..... | Township | 159 | 161 | 3 | 0 | 118 | 33 | 10 | 419 | 441 | 860 |
| Martall-with-Warford..... | Township | 49 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 7 | 0 | 130 | 140 | 270 |
| Mere..... | Township | 104 | 104 | 0 | 1 | 61 | 21 | 22 | 288 | 280 | 568 |
| Millington..... | Township | 44 | 48 | 0 | 3 | 27 | 20 | 1 | 109 | 176 | 285 |
| Peover Superior..... | Township | 84 | 87 | 1 | 3 | 68 | 12 | 6 | 241 | 239 | 480 |
| Rosthern..... | Township | 67 | 69 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 32 | 16 | 130 | 120 | 250 |
| Tabley Superior..... | Township | 79 | 83 | 5 | 1 | 59 | 10 | 14 | 221 | 188 | 409 |
| Tatton..... | Township | 25 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 10 | 57 | 73 | 130 |
| RUNCORN..... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acton Grange..... | Township | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 73 | 62 | 135 |
| Aston Grange..... | Township | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 16 | 29 |
| Aston-Juxta-Sutton..... | Township | 34 | 35 | 1 | 0 | 31 | 4 | 0 | 82 | 85 | 167 |
| Clifton, alias Rock Savage..... | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 18 | 36 |
| Daresbury..... | Township | 24 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 16 | 2 | 47 | 67 | 114 |
| Halton..... | Township | 151 | 177 | 0 | 1 | 65 | 102 | 10 | 463 | 431 | 894 |
| Norton..... | Township | 30 | 30 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 5 | 1 | 110 | 111 | 221 |
| Preston-on-the-Hill..... | Township | 64 | 70 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 53 | 4 | 196 | 185 | 381 |
| Runcorn..... | Township | 350 | 400 | 6 | 8 | 34 | 339 | 27 | 948 | 1,112 | 2,060 |
| Stockham..... | Township | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 15 | 38 |
| Sutton..... | Township | 47 | 49 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 11 | 26 | 131 | 134 | 265 |
| Thelwall..... | Township | 63 | 65 | 2 | 0 | 60 | 5 | 0 | 167 | 159 | 326 |
| Walton Inferior..... | Township | 56 | 57 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 15 | 7 | 131 | 154 | 285 |
| Walton Superior..... | Township | 37 | 42 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 9 | 11 | 83 | 92 | 175 |
| Veston..... | Township | 38 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 15 | 0 | 90 | 99 | 189 |
| WARBURTON..... | Parish | 86 | 87 | 0 | 4 | 52 | 33 | 2 | 235 | 235 | 470 |
| | | 5,929 | 6,306 | 42 | 105 | 3,034 | 2,562 | 710 | 15,930 | 16,473 | 32,403 |

NOTES. (a) Partly in Rosthern Parish; but the whole is entered here.

(b) Part of Great Budworth Parish is in Northwich Hundred, part in Eddisbury Hundred.

THE
HISTORY
OF
KNUTSFORD.

CHAPTER I.

Antiquity of Knutsford—Population in 1801 and 1811—Manufactures—A description of the Church—Free School—the Jubilee—Custom peculiar to the Inhabitants—Mr. Egerton's School—A description of Tatton Hall—Tabley House.

KNUTSFORD, the principal town of Bucklow Hundred, in the County of Chester, is situated in a fine fertile country, eleven miles and a half from Macclesfield, eleven from Warrington, seven from Northwich, 26 from Chester, and 173 N. N. W. from London.

This town is undoubtedly a place of great antiquity, and the derivation of its name is traced by antiquaries to the circumstance of King Canute having crossed the Birken with his army after a victory: hence it was called Canute's-Ford, and afterwards Knutsford.*

* Camden's Britannia, vol. i. p. 487.

It is now a handsome well built town divided into two parts, Over, and Nether Knutsford, by the brook Birken, which rises about a quarter of a mile from the southern end of King-street, passes under the turn-pike road, and falls into Tatton Mere.

Knutsford consists of the principal street called King-street, which is of considerable extent, and is the great thoroughfare of the town; Princess-street, where the Sessions Hall is erected; the Market-place; Minshull-street; Silk Mill-street; and Swinton-square. A weekly market for provisions of all kinds is held on Saturday; and there are three annual fairs, the first on Whit-Tuesday, the second on the 10th of July, and the third on the 8th of November, chiefly for drapery and cutlery.

By a Charter granted by King Edward the First, it appears that William de Tableigh was then Lord of the Manor of Knutsford. In the lapse of ages it came into the possession of different families, and Wilbraham Egerton, Esq. is now Lord of the Manor. He has built a Court-House in the Market-place; the Court Leet is held in the upper part of the building, and the lower part is open for the accommodation of the country people who come to the market.

The Quarter Sessions for the County of Chester is held in the Sessions House in Princess-street, Knutsford, at Midsummer and Michaelmas; and at Chester, on Lady Day and at Christmas.

In the year 1801, Knutsford contained 481 houses, and 2,372 inhabitants. In 1811, it contained 497 houses, inhabited by 529 families; 1,096 males, 1,261

females. Total 2,357. According to these returns it appears that though the number of houses had increased, the number of inhabitants had decreased, which certainly affords no proof of the increasing prosperity of the town. But Knutsford is not subject to the fluctuations to which large manufacturing towns are exposed, for its manufactures are inconsiderable. In the year 1770 a large building was erected, in that part of Knutsford called Silk Mill-street, for doubling and twisting silk. After some years this business was discontinued, and the building was afterwards occupied by Cotton Spinners. This branch of manufacture has also failed, and the place is now occupied by cottagers.

But the manufacture for which Knutsford was principally noted was that of thread. About thirty years ago the flax was brought to Knutsford in its raw state and spun, and the yarn twisted into thread in the town; but during the increase of the cotton manufacture, the flax-spinners became cotton-spinners, and the manufacture of linen-thread was neglected. At present there is very little business done in the town either in the thread or cotton manufactures.

The principal business of Knutsford is that of the different handicraft trades, and the town obtains much of its support from the public spirit and liberality of the opulent gentry who reside in its neighbourhood. The annual races also contribute both to the amusement and emolument of the inhabitants; and at that time the town is much enlivened by the presence of a great number of persons of rank and opulence. Balls

are occasionally given in an elegant assembly room, and Knutsford has long been considered a genteel place.

The town though small is handsome ; the streets are kept clean, and the situation is salubrious.

Knutsford Church is a handsome modern structure of brick and stone, similar to Christ's Church Macclesfield. It is situated on a pleasant eminence near King-street, and is adorned with a square tower which contains a clock and six bells. From the centre of the tower rises a flag-staff, where on all public occasions the union flag is displayed by the loyal townsmen of Knutsford. On receiving the news of the memorable and truly important victory achieved by British valour over the pirates of Algiers, the people of Knutsford kept their flag flying for three days. Knutsford Church is a vicarage, the Rev, Henry Grey is the present Vicar, and the Rev. ——— Bouverie is Curate. The living, which is worth £400. per annum, is in the gift of four patrons alternately—Sir J. F. Leicester, of Tabley ; Wilbraham Egerton, Esq. of Tatton ; Ralph Leycester, Esq. of Toft ; and Wilboughby Leigh, Esq. of Booth's.

There is a free Grammar School in this town for the instruction of forty boys, and the Institution is endowed with lands to the value of £30. per annum. The Rev. P. Vanett is the present master, and he also keeps a boarding school.

The inhabitants of Knutsford are remarkable for their loyalty and attachment to the House of Brunswick. Hitherto indeed they have had no opportunity of sig-

nalizing their zeal in the field of glory, though they have a fine troop of volunteer cavalry; their loyal demonstrations have happily been confined to civic festivities, of which the most memorable instance was that of the Jubilee celebrated in honour of his present Majesty's commencement of the fiftieth year of his reign. The following description of the rejoicings in Knutsford on that occasion is given by an eye witness. "The flag presented to the townsmen of Knutsford, by their lamented, patriotic, loyal, and charitable townswoman, Lady Jane Stanley, to be used on all occasions of rejoicing, was hoisted upon the flag staff on the top of the steeple, and the streets were cleaned, and sanded with various appropriate mottos, a custom peculiar to Knutsford. The cavalry and infantry marched to Church, preceded by the Sunday School scholars, where they and the principal nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood heard an excellent sermon preached by their new Vicar, the Rev. Henry Grey, (nephew to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington) with the anthem of 'God save the King,' sung by Captain Leech.

"After divine service, the volunteers were reviewed by their commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Fleming Leicester, Bart. they were then dismissed, and retired to the different inns, where dinners were provided for them. At the George and Angel Inns, large parties of the officers and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood dined. At seven o'clock, numerous parties were much gratified on the heath by a grand display of fireworks, which were let off by

Charles Cholmondeley, Esq.; after which a very large bonfire of wood was lighted on the race-ground. When the Volunteers marched back, they sung 'God save the King,' at the door of that worthy officer Major Wright, with loud cheers. There was an elegant and well attended ball at the George Inn. A liberal subscription was made for the poorer inhabitants. To each man, woman, and child, two pounds of prime beef were given, with a proportion of good ale."

The custom of strewing the streets of Knutsford with brown sand, and making emblematic figures in it in white sand, mentioned in the foregoing description, is certainly peculiar to this town, but except in this instance of the Royal Jubilee, it has been confined to rejoicings on the marriage of any inhabitant of the town or its neighbourhood, when in addition to the usual mode of expressing their joy by the ringing of bells, the relations and friends of the happy couple sweep the street and footway before their doors, adorn them with ingenious devices in sand, and strew them over with flowers, but too emblamatic of the precarious and transitory felicity of human life.

Near the end of King-street, the entrance to Tatton Park is a conspicuous ornament to the town. This entrance is by large iron gates with a beautiful plantation of flourishing trees on each side. A neat mansion on the left, built in the cottage style, thatched, and almost concealed from the passenger by the circumambient trees, is consecrated to female industry and virtue. It is a spinning-school founded and amply supported by the benevolence of Mrs. Egerton, of

Tatton Hall. In this school eighty day scholars receive gratuitous instruction in reading, writing, spinning, and whatever can render them useful to society. Six orphan girls are also clothed, maintained, and educated in this School, and when properly qualified to become good servants, their humane patroness places them in comfortable situations. Such beneficence is above eulogium, and will doubtless be recorded in a more durable memorial than the perishable pages of this history.

The vicinity of Knutsford is remarkable for the number of gentlemen's seats with which it is adorned. No less than ten elegant villas are to be seen within a few miles of the town, and as several of the proprietors are residents, they very materially contribute to the prosperity of Knutsford, by the patronage which they afford to the industrious part of the inhabitants.

The appearance of these extensive parks, with their ancient groves and coppices of full grown oaks, elms, beeches, and limes; their young and vigorous plantations, and beautifully diversified pleasure-grounds, smiling in all the forms and hues of vegetative beauty, and still farther embellished by the majestic grandeur of antique or modern architecture; affords the highest gratification to the admirers of picturesque scenery and rural magnificence. Among those favourite retreats of British independence, Tatton Hall, the country residence of Wilbraham Egerton, Esq. commands the attention of the intelligent observer.

Tatton Hall is situated on a gentle eminence in the middle of the park. The front is of beautiful freestone,

and built in the Corinthian order, from a design by that skilful architect, Wyatt. The structure consists of the main body and two wings; the entrance is by a few steps through a handsome portico of four Corinthian columns, which support an elegant pediment. The wall is adorned with four pilasters in the same order of architecture, and the appearance altogether is simple and beautiful. The commodious and comfortable interior, harmonizes with the superb exterior of this mansion, and the whole building is calculated for the accommodation of the proprietor, his family, and numerous dependants. The lawn in front, by a gentle and almost imperceptible declivity, declines towards Tatton Mere, a large lake abounding with the finny tribes, at the distance of half a mile from the Hall, and extending along the vale till hid by the distant trees. Tatton Park contains hundreds of full grown timber-trees, and is said to be twelve miles in circumference.

Tabley House, the residence of the proprietor, Sir J. F. Leicester, Bart. is another noble mansion in the neighbourhood of Knutsford. It is also a modern structure, built in the Doric order, and on a magnificent scale. The high and massy Doric columns which adorn the portico, strongly impress the idea of durability. The stables, in which the baronet keeps a fine stud, are perhaps equal in convenience if not magnificence, to the stables of the Prince Regent.

THE
HISTORY
OF
STOCKPORT.

CHAPTER I.

Existence of Stockport in the time of the Saxons and Romans, asserted by one antiquary, and denied by another—its existence as a Barony in the time of William the Conqueror asserted—Stockport Castle inhabited by Geoffrey de Constantine, in 1173—Charter granted to the Burgesses of Stockport, in 1260—the Silk manufacture established in that town, in the eighteenth century—Battle between the Royalists and Republicans, at Stockport, in 1644—Stockport invaded by the Scotch Rebels, in 1645.

THE antiquity of Stockport is indisputable; it has existed for centuries as a fortified post, and is now the first town in the county of Chester with respect to population, manufactures, and commerce. In this brief history of Stockport, it will be requisite to elucidate its antiquities, which will be no easy task, as the most celebrated writers on the subject are of different opinions. Mr. Whitaker, indeed, who is remarkable for the decisive tone with which he utters his conjectures, seems

to view the objects of antiquarian research as greater in proportion to their remoteness;

“As things seem large which we thro’ mists descry,
Dulness is ever apt to magnify,”

and he consequently speaks with the utmost confidence in his description of the antiquities of Stockport.

“The town of Stockport,” says he, “appears evidently the one common centre to three or four very variously directed roads of the Romans. The High-street advances to it from Manchester; and the Pepper-street hastens to it from Handford; and in the parish of Ashton, and near the foot of Stayley-bridge, is a third road, commonly denominated Stayley-street, for a mile together, the main line of which lies pointing clearly from Castle-shaw to Stockport. These are sure signatures of a Roman station; this must have been fixed upon the scite of the castle, and was the area of the Castle-hill, at Stockport. This is exactly such a scite as the Romans must have instantly selected for such a station; that is a small area, detached from the level ground of the Market-place, and connected with it only by an isthmus. The area must have been the actual scite of the castle in the earliest period of the Saxon residence among us; as the castle must have originally communicated its name to the town, and as both were denominated Stockport, because the former was a port or castle in a wood. The area is about half a statute acre in extent; the scite is still incomparably strong in itself, and the position is happily fitted for the ford. The station must have had a steep of one hundred or one hundred and twenty yards, upon three

sides of it; and must have been guarded by a foss, across the isthmus. The Roman road from East Cheshire must have been effectually commanded by it; being obliged, by the circling current of the Mersey, to approach very near to the castle; and being evinced, by the remaining steepness of the neighbouring banks, to have actually ascended the brow in a hollow, immediately below the eastern side of it."

When England was exposed to the predatory incursions of the Danes, who had obtained a footing on the northern coast of the kingdom, and from time to time received reinforcements from the Continent, Stockport was undoubtedly a place of importance, from its naturally strong situation on the steep bank of a rapid river. Indeed there is a traditionary account that the Anglo-Saxons fortified Stockport, and that the Danish assailants were repulsed from this place with great slaughter. This event is mentioned by Nichols in his poem "*De Litteris Inventis*," in the following lines.

"Fama refert, Danos ubi nunc Stopporta locator,
Affectus olim clade fuisse gravi :
Inde urbi nomen, prædonum incursibus obex,
Quod datus, hic Anglis sit quoque parta salus."

In corroboration of this tradition, great numbers of human bones have been dug up in Stockport-park, a field below the scite of the ancient castle.

Most antiquaries agree that Stockport was one of the eight baronies of Cheshire, created by Hugh Lupus in the reign of William the Conqueror, but this is

controverted by Sir Peter Leycester, who says, "as to the baron of Stockport mentioned by Spellman, it is much to be doubted whether he were any of the ancient Barons of the Earl of Chester; howbeit his arms are put up in the Exchequer at Chester among the Barons: but all those arms were but of late times put up there, and where the Baron of Monte-alto is most unjustly above the Baron of Halton.

"It is certain that in Domesday-book we find not any person that held Stockport; whereby it may seem then to be waste and not inhabited. And as concerning Sir Richard de Stockport and his Family, we find little or no mention before the reign of Henry the Third, in which King's reign the ancient Earls of Chester were extinct: so that the family of Stockport could be none of the ancient Barons."*

Another ingenious writer,† however, asserts the high antiquity of the barony of Stockport with great plausibility, and his reasoning is entitled to the attention of whoever feels interested in the subject. "After William the Conqueror," says he, "thought himself firmly established on his throne, he bestowed many provinces and counties of this realm on the Barons who assisted him. Those strengthened the counties respectively allotted to them, in the mode that seemed best adapted to secure their possessions from the incursions of their neighbours. The counties palatine (as they have since been called) were judged to be in greater danger than the others, and greater attention

* Historical Antiquities, folio, p. 162.

† The late Rev. John Watson, of Stockport.

was therefore paid to their defence. Thus, in the adjoining county palatine of Lancaster, Roger Pictavensis, the Earl, caused the whole jurisdiction to be surrounded with a chain of forts; some of which I shall mention, as their situations are immediately connected with the illustration of my Subject.

“ One of these forts was at Widnes, where a Baron was stationed to protect that part of Lancashire from the incursion of the Cheshire people; and as their jealousy was mutual, opposite to this on the Cheshire side, was Haulton Castle; and Nigel, or rather William son of Nigel, was fixed there with some title, and stationed in such a manner as to guard the country from any surprize, either from Warrington, another Lancashire barony, or Runcorn Ferry. The next barony on the Lancashire side, above Warrington, was Newton, erected as well to strengthen the former, as to oppose any passage out of Cheshire, over the river Mersey, at Hallingreen Ferry; and lest from this station, and over this ferry, damage should be done to the inhabitants of Cheshire, the Earl of Chester made Ham de Masei another of his Barons, and placed him opposite to the above at Dunham. Another barony of the Lancashire palatinate was Manchester, erected as a guard on one side, against any incursion from Stretford, and on the other against the military station which appears to have been in very early times at Stockport. Now as all the above Lancashire Barons were made in the reign of the Conqueror, by Roger Pictavensis, it seems to follow that the barony of Stockport is as old as the rest within the county of Ches-

ter ; for why should every other Lancashire barony be guarded against, which lay opposite to Chester, and not that at Manchester ? If such an opening in the county was permitted to remain unguarded, the other establishments must have been useless."

This reasoning of Mr. Watson seems conclusive, and indeed from the commanding, elevated, and it might be added inaccessible scite of ancient Stockport, on the steep and high bank of the Mersey, which divides the counties of Chester and Lancaster, there can be no doubt but a fortress was made to protect the neighbouring country from hostile incursions. But the opinion of Mr. Whitaker, that Stockport was a Roman station is controvertible, and equally vague and dubious ; for if that enterprizing people had established the Head-quarters of any of their Legions here, some remains of their architecture, arms, or coin, would long since have been discovered on the spot.

The first written document of the existence of Stockport Castle, is dated in the year 1173, in the nineteenth year of the reign of Henry the Second. It was then held by Geoffrey de Constantine, of Hugh Bohun, the fifth Earl of Chester, in lineal descent from Hugh Lupus,* nephew to William the Conqueror. At this early period of its history, the town of Stockport was but an inconsiderable place as to traffic, but of very great importance as a fortified post. When the male line of succession from Hugh Lupus became extinct, in the reign of Henry the Third, he bestowed the Earldom of Chester on his eldest son Prince Edward, who

* From an ancient MS. dated 1400.

was equally remarkable for his munificence, and public spirit in promoting the prosperity of Cheshire.

While this Prince exercised his authority as ruler of the palatinate of Chester, he conferred many immunities upon the inhabitants of different towns within his jurisdiction, particularly those of Chester, Macclesfield, and Stockport. At this time Roger de Stokeporte held the Town and Castle of Stockport under Prince Edward, and was permitted by him to grant a chartèr in the year 1260, to the inhabitants, by which each of his Burgesses was entitled to a homestead and an acre of land, for the sum of one shilling, to be paid annually. He also granted a market to be held weekly in Stockport on Friday, and a fair to be held yearly on the feast of St. Winifred, and to be continued for seven days.

Such privileges in that remote age must have been highly advantageous to the inhabitants of Stockport; while the situation of the town on the verge of two fertile and extensive counties was conducive to its prosperity, and the gradual increase of its extent and population. But during the predominance of monkish superstition for centuries, few and vague are the records of even the most celebrated cities of England. Ecclesiastical History, and the legends of sainted individuals who were canonized for bestowing their treasures for the endowment of monasteries, nunneries, priories, and chantries, constituted the bulk of the records of those dark ages, when the Holy Mother Church of Rome interdicted the promulgation of knowledge both divine and human, and confined the opinions

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and the creed of her votaries within the mysterious circlet of her worse than necromantic, though *professedly catholic* influence. Consequently, whoever had the magnanimity to resist the tyrannic assumptions of the Hierarchy, was described by those priestly historians as a demon; while the devotee who robbed relations, friends, and even children to enrich the Church, was inscribed in the sacerdotal kalendar as little less than a divinity. From this view of facts, it must follow, that few of the early transactions which occurred in Stockport have reached us, for this great manufacturing and commercial town owes its present importance to the ingenuity, enterprize, and praiseworthy industry of emancipated Englishmen; and it is only since the Reformation, nay, since the middle of the eighteenth century, that the hills on which the town stands, have been covered with houses, manufactories, and warehouses, and the streets thronged with a busy populace.

With respect to its ancient establishments, the old Church dedicated to St. Mary was first built about five centuries ago; and its Grammar-School was founded in the year 1487. But it was not till the firm establishment of civil and religious liberty at the glorious revolution in 1686, that Stockport, in common with many other English towns, rose into consequence. Since that felicitous era the human mind expanding with an enlarged sphere of action, has been incited to exercise those inventive faculties conferred by the beneficent Creator for the good of society; new arts have been devised, and those practised by our ancestors have been improved. All the elements have been

made subservient to the progressive enterprize of our manufacturers, and the productions of the cotton-spinner, the weaver, and the printer, have for beauty of texture, elegance of pattern, and brilliancy of colour, excited the admiration of natives and foreigners, and commanded an extensive market both for home consumption, and among the Continental nations of Europe and America. That the raw material of cotton should be exported from the Northern and the Southern shores of America, imported into this country, and afterwards manufactured, and returned across the vast Atlantic, and sold to the original cultivator at perhaps *one hundred times* its original value when in an unmanufactured state, affords a demonstration of the superiority of British ingenuity above all eulogium; and for this ascendancy of genius in every branch of handicraft art, as well as in the steady progress which we maintain as a people in the elegant arts and sciences, we are doubtless indebted to that Freedom which is only bounded by the precepts of the Deity, and the salutary laws of an enlightened community. Wherever Liberty has existed in ancient or modern nations, knowledge and happiness have prevailed, and the human soul stimulated by the love of excellencé, has made such attainments in whatever was useful and beautiful as proved the dignity of her high, her god-like destination; but in those nations debased by slavery, where the fiat of a Despot was the law of the land, and where man ignobly idolized a human being under whatever name, as Pontiff, Emperor, King, or Regents, instead of worshipping the CREATOR, the

mind, though incited by "*immortal longings*," has sunk beneath the depression of vassalage into imbecility and insignificance.

It has been asserted by Dr. Aiken, that the first English Mills for winding and throwing silk, were erected in Stockport; and he states that the names of the individuals who began the business in this town, were Thomas Eyre, of Stockport; Talbot Warren, Esq.; Thomas Hadfield, and George Nicholson, of Heaton Norris, Lancashire, chapmen; and John Gurnell, of London, merchant. The time when they commenced business as Silk throwsters is not mentioned, but it must have been nearly a century ago, and prior to its introduction into Macclesfield, for in the year 1752, John Clayton, an experienced Silk throwster of Stockport, went to Congleton, and erected a Silk mill on the banks of the Dane.

During the civil war between Charles the First and the Parliament, Stockport was the scene of a short but sanguinary engagement. In 1644, the town was occupied by a division of the Republican army, consisting of 3000 cavalry and infantry, commanded by Colonel Duckenfield. On the 25th of May, they were attacked by the Royal army, led by Prince Rupert, and after a severe conflict, were defeated, and a great number of them killed and wounded. The Prince immediately entered the town with his victorious troops, crossed Stockport bridge, and proceeded rapidly to Manchester.

CHAPTER II.

Progress of the Cotton manufacture in Stockport—prosperity of the town—increase of its inhabitants—public buildings—St. Mary's Church—St. Peter's—the Grammar Schools—Stockport Sunday-School—Police—Market—Fairs.

IN the year 1766, James Hargrave, a weaver, resident near Blackburn, invented the machine called a Jenny, by which he spun ten threads of Cotton at once. This machine was soon afterwards improved by Richard Arkwright, a barber, who lived at Bolton, and the manufacture of Cotton was increased in Lancashire with rapidity and success, unparalleled in the history of commerce.

The success of the Cotton spinners of Lancashire, induced some enterprising individuals in Stockport, to engage in that branch of manufacture in 1775, and from the facility of communication with Manchester, they obtained a ready and profitable market for their reeled west.

In 1780, some active Cotton manufacturers in Stockport wove checks, and fustians; and as the machine called a Mule was invented about this time, by which Cotton threads were drawn to a sufficient degree of fineness, the manufacture of muslins both plain and figured, was successfully established at Stockport.

From that time, the increase in the population and extent of Stockport were almost incredible; instead of

the obscure and miserable place which formerly appeared on the Cheshire side of the river Mersey, a new town was erected as if by enchantment; streets and houses annually increased on the hills and in the valleys; manufactories were erected, and thousands of busy hands employed in a new and productive staple of national wealth; artizans attracted by the hope of gain flocked hither, and the scene became equally gratifying, interesting, and important, to the merchant, the philosopher, and the statesman.

A distinct idea of the increase in the population of Stockport, may be formed from the following facts.

STOCKPORT BILL OF MORTALITY.

| Years. | Married. | Baptized. | Buried. |
|--------|----------|-----------|---------|
| 1750 | - 47 | - 107 | - 206 |
| 1770 | - 93 | - 110 | - 209 |
| 1780 | - 108 | - 173 | - 250 |
| 1790 | - 224 | - 316 | - 369 |

From 1790 to 1800, the increase was greater than in any other ten years of the eighteenth century; for in 1800 the Baptisms were 564, and the Burials 656, which on the common statistical calculation, would imply a population of at least 16,000 persons.

According to the population returns in 1801, the inhabitants of Stockport were 14,830, of whom 14,380 were reported to be employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft. In 1811, the number was increased to 17,545, exclusive of the inhabitants of Heaton Norris and Portwood in the vicinity of the town.

In the year 1815, Stockport and its vicinity contained forty large buildings occupied by Cotton spinners; fifty-five Cotton manufactories in the various branches of checks, fustians, and muslins, and eighteen large Hat manufactories.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

The most conspicuous and magnificent edifice in Stockport is the Parish Church, dedicated to St. Mary. It is erected on the scite of the Old Church, on a gentle elevation near the eastern end of the Market-place, and is built of beautiful yellowish Runcorn stone, in the Gothic style of architecture, and adorned with a lofty square tower. The exterior part of this Church is now complete, and when the interior is finished with proportionate elegance, it will be one of the most spacious and beautiful places of public worship in the island. This edifice, which for centuries will be a noble monument of the piety and opulence of the present public-spirited inhabitants of Stockport, will according to the estimate cost about £30,000. which is levied by Church leys on the proprietors of houses and their tenants, in the proportion of three fourths on the former and one fourth on the latter.

The first stone of this Church was laid on Monday, July 5, 1813, by Wilbraham Egerton, Esq. one of the Representatives in Parliament for the county of Chester, and the edifice was finished in the spring of 1817.

St. Mary's is a Rectory, and the living is said to be worth £1200. a year.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

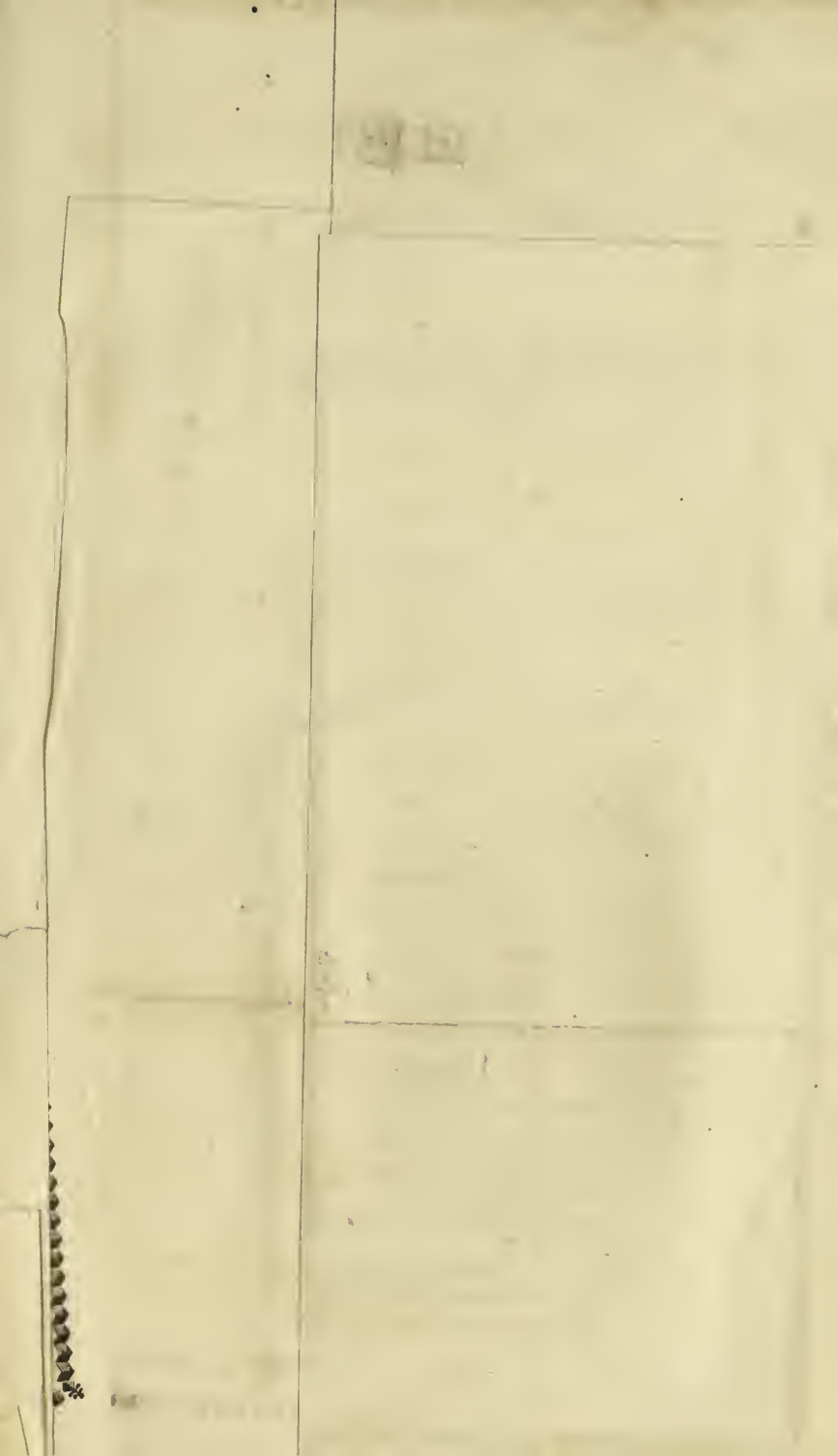
This small Church is situated on a hill on the western side of the town. It was built by Peter Wright, Esq. and endowed by him with £200. a year. It contains a very fine organ.

There are ten places appropriated to religion in Stockport; namely, the two Churches; two Meeting houses for the Calvinists; three for the Methodists, including two for the followers of John Wesley, and one for the Kilhamites; one Unitarian Chapel; one Quaker's Meeting house; and one Chapel for the Roman Catholics, which is situated at Edgley, in the vicinity of the town.

Stockport Grammar School was founded in the year 1487 by the Goldsmith's Company in London. It was endowed by Edmund Shaw, with £10. per annum, which has since been increased to £36.

Stockport Sunday-School, supported by Christians of all denominations, is situated on an eminence near Edgley, and is a very conspicuous object. This edifice, 132 feet in length, 57 in width, and four stories high, was erected by voluntary subscription. The first stone was laid on the 14th of June, 1805: There are now upwards of 3000 children instructed in it, by gratuitous teachers, and since its doors were first opened for the communication of knowledge, 20,000 young persons have been *trained up in the way they should go.*

81

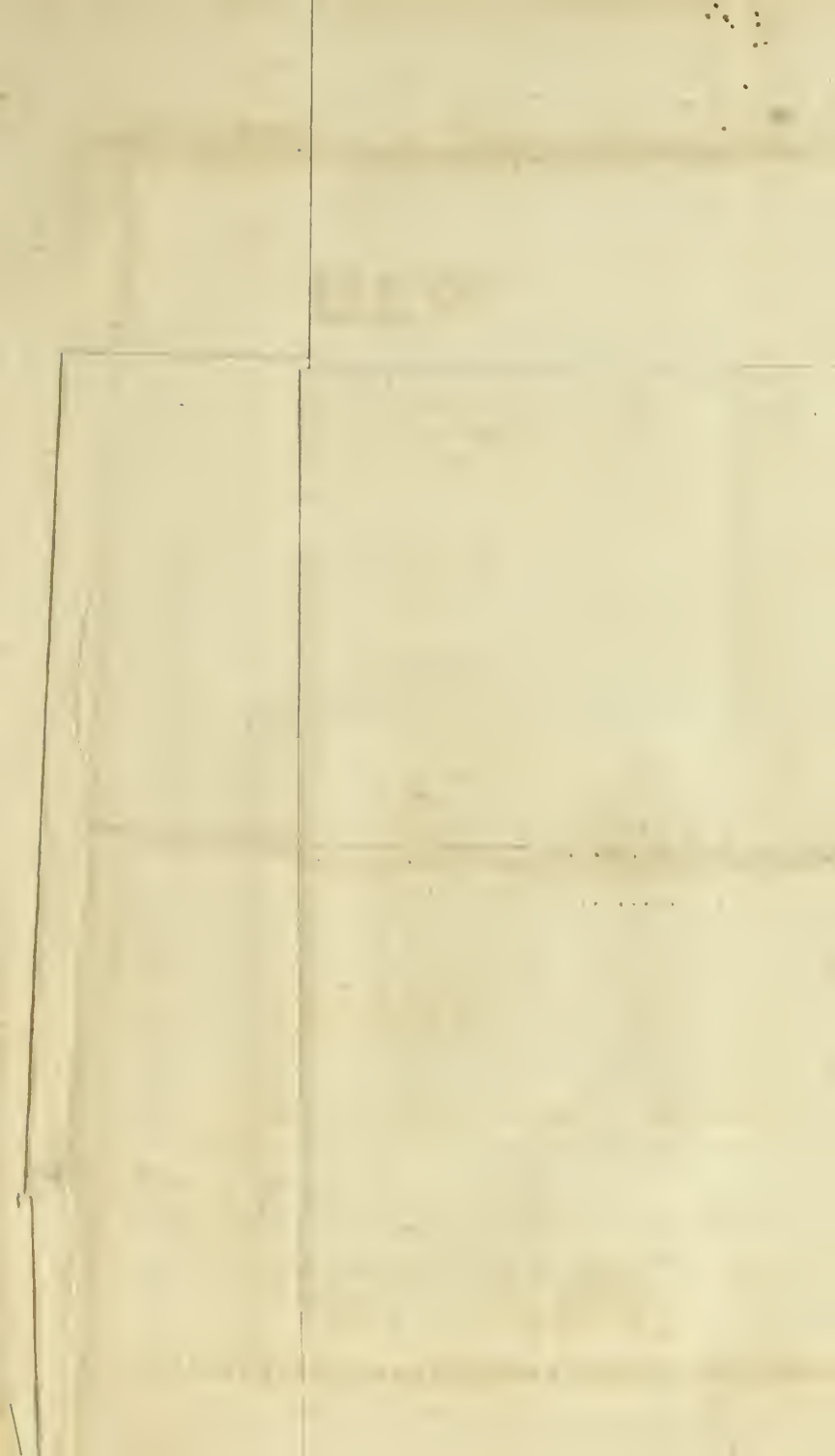


POPULATION OF BROXTON HUNDRED In the Year 1811.

| HUNDRED. | Parish, Township, or, Extra Parochial Place. | Inhabited. | HOUSEH. | | | OCCUPATIONS. | | | PERSONS. | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|---|---|---|----------|----------|-------------------|--|--|
| | | | By how many Families Occupied. | Buildings. | Uninhabited. | Families chiefly employed in Agriculture. | Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufacture, or Handicraft. | Allother Families not comprised in the 2 preceding classes. | Males. | Females. | Total of Persons. | | |
| BROXTON High Division. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) ALFORD Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alford. | Township | 79 | 77 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 8 | 23 | 204 | 187 | 391 | | |
| Chariton by Alford. | Township | 35 | 40 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 6 | 9 | 100 | 95 | 195 | | |
| (b) BUNHURY Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bunbury. | Township | 52 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 125 | 125 | 250 | | |
| CODDINGTON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aldeley. | Township | 25 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 6 | 0 | 74 | 83 | 157 | | |
| Chowley. | Township | 9 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 37 | 68 | | |
| Coddington. | Township | 11 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 59 | 74 | 133 | | |
| FARNDON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barton. | Township | 24 | 33 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 8 | 6 | 89 | 88 | 177 | | |
| Chariton by Farnon. | Township | 23 | 25 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 7 | 0 | 58 | 70 | 128 | | |
| Clifton. | Township | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 38 | 46 | 84 | | |
| Crew. | Township | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 20 | 38 | | |
| Farnon. | Township | 59 | 71 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 41 | 165 | 172 | 337 | | |
| HANDLEY Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Handley. | Township | 31 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 11 | 2 | 106 | 109 | 215 | | |
| HARTHILL Parish | Township | 23 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 89 | 131 | 220 | | |
| Kingsmarsh Extra P. | | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 16 | 40 | | |
| MALPAS Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agden. | Township | 15 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 2 | 60 | 40 | 100 | | |
| Bickerton. | Township | 61 | 65 | 2 | 1 | 57 | 10 | 0 | 185 | 113 | 308 | | |
| Hickley. | Township | 76 | 79 | 1 | 0 | 51 | 15 | 13 | 201 | 215 | 419 | | |
| Bradley. | Township | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 32 | 63 | | |
| Broxtan. | Township | 51 | 60 | 2 | 2 | 49 | 9 | 2 | 165 | 166 | 331 | | |
| Bulkeley. | Township | 35 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 5 | 1 | 82 | 83 | 165 | | |
| Chilcot. | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 12 | | |
| Cholmondeley. | Township | 41 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 3 | 0 | 116 | 135 | 251 | | |
| Chorlton. | Township | 12 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 50 | 55 | 105 | | |
| Cuddington. | Township | 39 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 8 | 6 | 107 | 118 | 225 | | |
| Duckington. | Township | 10 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 40 | 32 | 72 | | |
| Edge. | Township | 48 | 48 | 0 | 2 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 119 | 157 | 276 | | |
| Eggston. | Township | 13 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 52 | 59 | 111 | | |
| Hampton. | Township | 33 | 33 | 0 | 3 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 95 | 95 | 190 | | |
| Larkton. | Township | 11 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 31 | 64 | | |
| Maefen. | Township | 10 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 29 | 54 | | |
| Malpas. | Township | 193 | 202 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 14 | 107 | 418 | 460 | 938 | | |
| Newton. | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 16 | | |
| Oldcastle. | Township | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 52 | 94 | | |
| Overton. | Township | 12 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 49 | 52 | 101 | | |
| Stockton. | Township | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 18 | 28 | | |
| Toshington with Grindley. | Township | 40 | 41 | 0 | 3 | 38 | 3 | 0 | 110 | 116 | 216 | | |
| Wichaleh. | Township | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 11 | 27 | | |
| Wigland. | Township | 33 | 35 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 11 | 1 | 73 | 93 | 168 | | |
| SHOCKLACH Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Calderot. | Township | 11 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 26 | 56 | | |
| Shocklach Church. | Township | 23 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 5 | 2 | 73 | 83 | 156 | | |
| Shocklach Orvatt. | Township | 27 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 85 | 155 | | |
| TILSTON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carden. | Township | 35 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 5 | 6 | 85 | 08 | 183 | | |
| Grafton. | Township | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 17 | | |
| Hariton. | Township | 18 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 9 | 59 | 57 | 116 | | |
| Streton. | Township | 18 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 44 | 57 | 101 | | |
| Tilston. | Township | 32 | 66 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 7 | 35 | 116 | 148 | 294 | | |
| | | 1,337 | 1,511 | 9 | 28 | 975 | 243 | 293 | 3,811 | 4,026 | 7,837 | | |
| BROXTON, High Division, continued. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) ALFORD Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boughton Great. | Township | 156 | 157 | 0 | 2 | 86 | 58 | 13 | 307 | 353 | 660 | | |
| Buerton. | Township | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 30 | 56 | | |
| Chariton Heath. | Township | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 7 | | |
| CHRISTLETON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christleton. | Township | 107 | 110 | 1 | 3 | 87 | 13 | 10 | 288 | 272 | 560 | | |
| Colton Athota. | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 11 | 22 | | |
| Colton Edmunds. | Township | 11 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 35 | 40 | 75 | | |
| Littleton. | Township | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 20 | 44 | | |
| Ilwerton. | Township | 12 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 39 | 69 | | |
| DODDLESTON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Doddleston. | Township | 30 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 4 | 2 | 117 | 112 | 229 | | |
| Kinnerton Lower. | Township | 15 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 46 | 49 | 95 | | |
| ECCLESTON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Faton. | Township | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 26 | 28 | 54 | | |
| Ecclleston. | Township | 43 | 45 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 6 | 11 | 137 | 129 | 266 | | |
| GI LIDEN SUTTON. | Parish | 24 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 62 | 58 | 120 | | |
| (b) HANDLEY Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Golborn David. | Township | 10 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 27 | 31 | 58 | | |
| (c) MARY ST. Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malston with Larch. | Township | 31 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 49 | 61 | 110 | | |
| Mocton. | Township | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | | |
| Upton. | Township | 30 | 30 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 2 | 2 | 93 | 89 | 182 | | |
| OSWALD ST. Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bach. | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 21 | | |
| Huntington. | Township | 16 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 63 | 124 | | |
| Lee Newbold. | Township | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 20 | 44 | | |
| Newton. | Township | 21 | 25 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 43 | 85 | 128 | | |
| Saghton. | Township | 45 | 49 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 26 | 131 | 193 | 324 | | |
| Weyton. | Township | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 53 | 31 | 84 | | |
| PILKINGTON PARISH. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conghall. | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 18 | | |
| Huoile. | Township | 40 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 3 | 7 | 82 | 125 | 207 | | |
| Pickton. | Township | 12 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 53 | 17 | 70 | | |
| Nickle Tiaford. | Township | 41 | 52 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 14 | 1 | 123 | 125 | 248 | | |
| PI L FORD Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poulton. | Township | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 64 | 66 | 132 | | |
| Palford. | Township | 26 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 21 | 89 | 88 | 171 | | |
| (c) TAVIN Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foult Stapleford. | Township | 48 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 8 | 11 | 130 | 113 | 243 | | |
| TATTENHALL Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Golborn Bellow. | Township | 10 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 35 | 40 | 75 | | |
| Newton. | Township | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 33 | 66 | | |
| Tattenhall. | Township | 144 | 141 | 0 | 0 | 111 | 0 | 0 | 331 | 337 | 668 | | |
| WAVERTON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hallon. | Township | 24 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 71 | 73 | 147 | | |
| Huxley. | Township | 37 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 7 | 0 | 102 | 116 | 212 | | |
| Waverton. | Township | 46 | 53 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 8 | 1 | 133 | 130 | 263 | | |
| | | 1,042 | 1,130 | 6 | 17 | 834 | 156 | 140 | 2,821 | 2,993 | 5,811 | | |

NOTE. (a) Partly in Broxtan Hundred, Lower Division.
(b) The greater part of Bunbury Parish is in Eddisbury Hundred, 1st Division.

(c) Partly in Broxtan Hundred, High Division.
(d) For the greatest part of St. Mary's and St. Oswald's, see Chester City, at the end of the County.
(e) Now converted into barracks.
(f) Partly in Eddisbury Hundred, 2d Division.
(g) The greatest part of Tavin Parish is in Eddisbury Hundred, 2d Division.



POPULATION OF WIRRAL HUNDRED In the Year 1811.

| HUNDRED. | Parish, Township, or, Extra Parochial Place. | HOUSES. | | | | OCCUPATIONS. | | | | PERSONS. | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|---|--|--|--|----------|----------|-------------------|
| | | Inhabited. | By how many Families Occupied. | Buildings. | Uninhabited. | Families chiefly employed in Agriculture. | Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, or Handicraft. | Families not comprised in the foregoing classes. | | Males. | Females. | Total of Persons. |
| WIRRAL Higher Division | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BLACKFORD Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blackford | Township | 31 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 3 | 2 | | 76 | 70 | 146 |
| Chorlton | Township | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | | 26 | 27 | 53 |
| Lew | Township | 12 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 0 | | 61 | 39 | 90 |
| Mullington, Great. | Township | 20 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 6 | | 48 | 65 | 113 |
| (a) BROMBORROW | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BURTON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barton | Township | 58 | 58 | 0 | 1 | 44 | 9 | 5 | | 119 | 151 | 300 |
| Paddington | Township | 23 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 2 | 2 | | 75 | 72 | 147 |
| EASTHAM Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastham | Township | 66 | 71 | 0 | 2 | 61 | 9 | 1 | | 156 | 169 | 325 |
| Hooton | Township | 26 | 29 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 2 | | 58 | 51 | 109 |
| Pool Nether | Township | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | 15 | 14 | 29 |
| Pool Over | Township | 15 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 3 | | 37 | 34 | 71 |
| Sutton Great. | Township | 27 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 25 | 2 | 0 | | 88 | 78 | 166 |
| Sutton Little. | Township | 44 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 6 | 0 | | 103 | 116 | 216 |
| Thornton Childer. | Township | 21 | 23 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 2 | | 43 | 53 | 96 |
| Whitley | Township | 32 | 32 | 0 | 3 | 30 | 2 | 0 | | 36 | 27 | 73 |
| (b) HOLY TRINITY P. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ilarcom with Crabhall | Township | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | | 30 | 24 | 54 |
| MARY ST. Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mollington Little. | Township | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | 13 | 13 | 26 |
| NESTON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ladshaw | Township | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 1 | 0 | | 41 | 37 | 75 |
| Leighton | Township | 57 | 57 | 0 | 3 | 30 | 15 | 12 | | 101 | 183 | 287 |
| Neston Great. | Township | 32 | 32 | 0 | 1 | 49 | 2 | 1 | | 203 | 169 | 374 |
| Neston Little. | Township | 325 | 329 | 0 | 13 | 20 | 200 | 109 | | 609 | 721 | 1,332 |
| Raby | Township | 56 | 56 | 0 | 2 | 56 | 0 | 0 | | 117 | 126 | 243 |
| Thornton Mayow | Township | 34 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 4 | 2 | | 83 | 67 | 150 |
| Willaston | Township | 38 | 38 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 7 | | 87 | 92 | 179 |
| OSWALD ST. Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Croighton | Township | 39 | 41 | 0 | 2 | 41 | 0 | 0 | | 89 | 92 | 181 |
| SHOTWICK Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cappenhurst | Township | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | 17 | 13 | 30 |
| Sanghall Great. | Township | 27 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 1 | 1 | | 70 | 95 | 165 |
| Sanghall Little. | Township | 22 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 9 | 1 | | 155 | 119 | 301 |
| Shotwick | Township | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | 32 | 32 | 61 |
| Wood bank, alias | Township | 17 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 0 | 0 | | 41 | 37 | 81 |
| Rough Shotwick. | Township | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 0 | | 25 | 18 | 43 |
| SHOTWICK PARK | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Extra P. | | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 13 | 11 | 24 |
| STANLOW HOUSE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Extra P. | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| STOKE Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stanney Great | Township | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| Stanney Little | Township | 33 | 39 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 7 | 11 | | 95 | 134 | 229 |
| Stoke | Township | 22 | 22 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 3 | | 51 | 65 | 116 |
| | | 1,210 | 1,214 | 3 | 35 | 718 | 306 | 190 | | 3,062 | 3,169 | 6,231 |
| WIRRAL Lower Division. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HEBBINGTON Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hebbington Higher. | Township | 32 | 32 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 5 | | 93 | 98 | 191 |
| Hebbington Lower. | Township | 56 | 58 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 22 | 12 | | 125 | 154 | 279 |
| Poulton with Spittle | Township | 17 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 1 | | 38 | 45 | 83 |
| Stornton | Township | 32 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 5 | 5 | | 98 | 81 | 179 |
| Tramware | Township | 90 | 94 | 0 | 3 | 29 | 31 | 34 | | 208 | 266 | 411 |
| BIDSTONE Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bidstone with Ford. | Township | 28 | 36 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 6 | 0 | | 101 | 97 | 198 |
| Birkinhead. | Manor | 17 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 7 | | 52 | 53 | 105 |
| Claughton with Grange | Township | 12 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 0 | | 43 | 45 | 88 |
| Morleton | Township | 40 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 3 | 0 | | 105 | 125 | 230 |
| Sanghall Moss. | Township | 20 | 21 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 0 | 2 | | 58 | 59 | 117 |
| (a) BROMBORROW P. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bromston | Township | 26 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 5 | 0 | | 68 | 55 | 123 |
| HESWALL Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gayton | Township | 16 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 4 | 1 | | 60 | 55 | 115 |
| Heswall with Oldfield. | Township | 59 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 0 | | 166 | 157 | 323 |
| THURSTANTON Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LITTON or OVER. | Parish | 10 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 1 | | 28 | 35 | 63 |
| CHURCH PARISH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WALLAZKY Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Liscard. | Township | 26 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 6 | 5 | | 80 | 63 | 163 |
| Poulton with Seacombe. | Township | 51 | 54 | 4 | 1 | 40 | 7 | 7 | | 171 | 118 | 289 |
| Wallasey. | Township | 39 | 42 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 4 | 23 | | 105 | 109 | 214 |
| WESTKIRBY Parish. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caldow Great and Little. | Township | 68 | 94 | 8 | 6 | 63 | 16 | 13 | | 174 | 266 | 410 |
| Frankby. | Township | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | | 51 | 47 | 98 |
| Grange. | Township | 16 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 0 | | 44 | 49 | 93 |
| Grasby. | Township | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | | 47 | 46 | 93 |
| House. | Township | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 4 | 0 | | 66 | 57 | 113 |
| Mexine Great. | Township | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 3 | 3 | | 52 | 48 | 100 |
| Mexine Little. | Township | 27 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 2 | 4 | | 71 | 77 | 148 |
| Newton with Larton. | Township | 24 | 25 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 0 | | 50 | 35 | 85 |
| Westkirby. | Township | 7 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | | 28 | 22 | 50 |
| WOODCHURCH Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arrow. | Township | 28 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 3 | 1 | | 59 | 62 | 141 |
| Barnston. | Township | 11 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 0 | | 45 | 37 | 82 |
| Irby. | Township | 24 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 0 | 0 | | 54 | 56 | 110 |
| Landcun. | Township | 21 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 2 | 0 | | 61 | 56 | 110 |
| Necclom. | Township | 6 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | | 20 | 27 | 47 |
| Oxton. | Township | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 6 | 6 | 11 |
| Pensby. | Township | 27 | 27 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 5 | 0 | | 70 | 58 | 128 |
| Penton. | Township | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | | 10 | 17 | 27 |
| Thingwell. | Township | 16 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 6 | | 42 | 42 | 81 |
| Woodcharch. | Township | 13 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 0 | | 36 | 39 | 75 |
| | | 11 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | | 42 | 31 | 76 |
| | | 950 | 1,021 | 20 | | 720 | 171 | 130 | | 2,610 | 2,738 | 5,348 |

Notes. (a) Partly in the Lower Division of this Hundred.

(b) The greatest part of the Holy Trinity, St. Mary's, and St. Oswald's Parish, is in the City of Chester.

(c) Partly in the Higher Division of this Hundred.

POPULATION OF NANTWICH HUNDRED In the Year 1811.

| HUNDREDS. | Parish, Township, or Extra-Parochial Place. | HOUSES. | | | | | OCCUPATIONS. | | | | PERSONS. | | Total of Persons. |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---|--|--|--------|----------|----------|--|-------------------|
| | | Inhabited. | By how many Families Occupied. | Building. | Uninhabited. | Families chiefly employed in Agriculture. | Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, or Handicraft. | All other Families not comprised in the 2 preceding classes. | Males. | Females. | | | |
| NANTWICH. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acton..... | Parish | 51 | 52 | 1 | 0 | 26 | 14 | 12 | 146 | 110 | | | 286 |
| Acton..... | Township | 23 | 25 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 72 | 74 | | | 146 |
| Aston Juxta Mondrum..... | Township | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 29 | | | 57 |
| Austerson..... | Township | 13 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 64 | 49 | | | 113 |
| Baddington..... | Township | 16 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 5 | 0 | 74 | 79 | | | 153 |
| Brindley..... | Township | 105 | 126 | 0 | 0 | 93 | 27 | 6 | 230 | 204 | | | 434 |
| Burland..... | Township | 27 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 20 | 95 | 94 | | | 189 |
| Choldmonstone..... | Township | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 23 | | | 43 |
| Cool Pile..... | Township | 5 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 39 | 45 | | | 84 |
| Eddleston..... | Township | 15 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 13 | 0 | 122 | 119 | | | 241 |
| Faddley..... | Township | 48 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 26 | 30 | | | 57 |
| Hemhull..... | Township | 13 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 15 | 86 | 90 | | | 176 |
| Hurlston..... | Township | 17 | 173 | 0 | 0 | 140 | 31 | 2 | 423 | 436 | | | 859 |
| Newhall..... | Township | 127 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 4 | 0 | 81 | 92 | | | 176 |
| Poole..... | Township | 30 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 8 | 0 | 66 | 74 | | | 140 |
| Stoke..... | Township | 58 | 60 | 0 | 2 | 43 | 17 | 0 | 150 | 144 | | | 294 |
| Wozleston..... | Township | | 246 | 0 | 1 | 192 | 52 | 2 | 512 | 528 | | | 1 040 |
| AUDLEM. | Parish | 500 | 73 | 0 | 1 | 60 | 10 | 3 | 209 | 220 | | | 429 |
| Audlem..... | Township | 61 | 73 | 0 | 1 | 60 | 10 | 3 | 209 | 220 | | | 429 |
| Buerden..... | Township | 110 | 119 | 0 | 2 | 80 | 27 | 12 | 304 | 314 | | | 622 |
| (a) Dolecot cam } Wilkesley } | Township | 41 | 42 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 12 | 7 | 109 | 107 | | | 216 |
| Hankney..... | Township | 36 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 4 | 0 | 91 | 116 | | | 207 |
| Soned..... | Township | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 23 | | | 43 |
| Tutenley..... | Township | 41 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 10 | 0 | 147 | 141 | | | 288 |
| RADLEY..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BARTHOMLEY..... | Parish | 62 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 13 | 2 | 172 | 177 | | | 349 |
| Alsgar..... | Township | 79 | 79 | 0 | 2 | 71 | 8 | 0 | 231 | 234 | | | 465 |
| Barthomley..... | Township | 52 | 52 | 0 | 1 | 42 | 6 | 4 | 140 | 140 | | | 280 |
| Crowe..... | Township | 160 | 181 | 0 | 8 | 160 | 21 | 0 | 456 | 456 | | | 922 |
| Haddington..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COPEHALL..... | Township | 51 | 51 | 0 | 3 | 44 | 5 | 2 | 153 | 153 | | | 306 |
| Copenhall Church..... | Township | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 0 | 57 | 57 | | | 114 |
| Copenhall Monks..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MARBURY..... | Township | 68 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 14 | 6 | 196 | 195 | | | 391 |
| Marbury with Quobley..... | Township | 69 | 81 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 20 | 0 | 190 | 197 | | | 387 |
| Norbury..... | Township | 71 | 77 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 18 | 0 | 120 | 138 | | | 258 |
| MINSHULL Church..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NANTWICH..... | Parish | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 12 | | | 38 |
| Alraston..... | Township | 29 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 87 | 69 | | | 156 |
| Leighton..... | Township | 816 | 851 | 0 | 57 | 90 | 609 | 152 | 1,855 | 2,124 | | | 3,999 |
| Nantwich..... | Township | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 24 | 24 | | | 48 |
| Woolstunwood..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (b) SANDBACH..... | Township | 122 | 136 | 1 | 4 | 97 | 28 | 11 | 354 | 347 | | | 701 |
| Bection..... | Township | 31 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 102 | 103 | | | 205 |
| Rassall..... | Township | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (c) WHITECHURCH..... | Parish | 15 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 53 | 59 | | | 112 |
| Wierwall..... | Township | 52 | 53 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 11 | 5 | 111 | 151 | | | 293 |
| WISTASTON..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WRENBURY..... | Parish | 18 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 82 | 84 | | | 166 |
| Bronhall..... | Township | 25 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 1 | 0 | 88 | 98 | | | 186 |
| Chorley..... | Township | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 |
| (d) Dislent with } Wilkesley } | Township | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 14 | | | 26 |
| Woodcot..... | Township | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 234 | 221 | | | 455 |
| Wrenbury with Frith..... | Township | 67 | 89 | 0 | 1 | 49 | 30 | 10 | 15 | 14 | | | 29 |
| WYENBURY..... | Parish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bartherton..... | Township | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 31 | | | 64 |
| Basford..... | Township | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 119 | 100 | | | 219 |
| Bickenhull..... | Township | 53 | 53 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 10 | 0 | 105 | 103 | | | 208 |
| Bridgmore..... | Township | 38 | 40 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 2 | 3 | 66 | 86 | | | 152 |
| Chickley with Winchell..... | Township | 26 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 51 | 39 | | | 90 |
| Chorton..... | Township | 16 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 28 | 34 | | | 62 |
| Foddington..... | Township | 9 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 56 | 12 | 0 | 165 | 211 | | | 375 |
| Haterton..... | Township | 52 | 68 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 20 | 4 | 117 | 121 | | | 238 |
| Hough..... | Township | 40 | 42 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 3 | 1 | 93 | 107 | | | 200 |
| Hanstonson..... | Township | 33 | 39 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 3 | 0 | 34 | 39 | | | 73 |
| Lea..... | Township | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 48 | 42 | | | 90 |
| Rope..... | Township | 13 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 92 | 107 | | | 199 |
| Shavington with Gresty..... | Township | 36 | 41 | 0 | 3 | 36 | 5 | 0 | 117 | 114 | | | 261 |
| Stapeley..... | Township | 50 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 42 | 7 | 1 | 101 | 105 | | | 206 |
| Walgherton..... | Township | 39 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 16 | 2 | 212 | 214 | | | 426 |
| Weston..... | Township | 51 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 24 | 2 | 107 | 107 | | | 214 |
| Willasos..... | Township | 34 | 38 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 30 | 6 | 174 | 177 | | | 351 |
| Wyubunbury..... | Township | 76 | 85 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 32 | 16 | | | | | |
| | | 3,480 | 3,912 | 2 | 85 | 2,382 | 1,207 | 323 | 9,568 | 10,000 | | | 19,568 |

NOTES. (a) Partly in Wrenbury Parish.

(b) The greatest part of Sandbach Parish is in Northwich Hundred.

(c) The greatest part of Whitechurch Parish is in Salop, North Bradford Hundred.

(d) Partly in Audlem Parish, where the whole is entered.



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